E/2012/99

United Nations

Resolutions and Decisions of the Economic and Social Council

Organizational session for 2012
New York, 10 January and 7–10 February 2012

Resumed organizational session for 2012
New York, 26 and 27 April and 7 June 2012

Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2–27 July 2012

Resumed substantive session of 2012
New York, 24 September, 22 October, 26 November and 20 December 2012 and 28 January 2013

Economic and Social Council

Official Records, 2012
Supplement No. 1

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NOTE

The resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council are identified as follows:

Resolutions

Until 1977 (up to and including the resumed sixty-third session), the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council were numbered consecutively and were identified by an arabic numeral followed by an indication of the session in parentheses (for example: resolution 1733 (LIV), resolution 1915 (ORG-75), resolution 2046 (S-III), adopted at the fifty-fourth session, the organizational session for 1975 and the third special session, respectively). When several resolutions were adopted under the same number, each of them was identified by a capital letter (for example: resolution 1926 B (LVIII), resolutions 1954 A to D (LIX)). The last resolution so numbered is resolution 2130 (LXIII), of 14 December 1977.

Since 1978, as part of the new system adopted for symbols of Council documents, the resolutions have been numbered on a yearly basis and identified by two arabic numerals separated by an oblique stroke, the first numeral indicating the year, the second the number of the resolution in the annual series (for example: resolution 1990/47).

Decisions

Until 1973 (up to and including the resumed fifty-fifth session), the decisions of the Council were not numbered. From 1974 to 1977 (up to and including the resumed sixty-third session), the decisions were numbered consecutively and were identified by an arabic numeral followed by an indication of the session in parentheses (for example: decision 64 (ORG-75), decision 78 (LVIII), adopted at the organizational session for 1975 and the fifty-eighth session, respectively). The last decision so numbered is decision 293 (LXIII), of 2 December 1977.

Since 1978, as part of the new system adopted for symbols of Council documents, the decisions have been numbered on a yearly basis and identified by two arabic numerals separated by an oblique stroke, the first numeral indicating the year, the second the number of the decision in the annual series (for example: decision 1990/224).

E/2012/99

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Contents

	Page
Agenda of the organizational session for 2012	1
Agenda of the substantive session of 2012	3
Checklist of resolutions and decisions	5
Resolutions	13
Decisions	93

Agenda of the organizational session for 2012

The organizational session for 2012 was held in New York on 10 January and 7 to 10 February 2012. The resumed organizational session was held in New York on 26 and 27 April and 7 June 2012.

At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 January 2012, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
4. Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments.

Agenda of the substantive session of 2012

The substantive session of 2012 was held in New York on 2 to 27 July 2012. The resumed substantive session of 2012 was held in New York on 24 September, 22 October, 26 November and 20 December 2012 and 28 January 2013.

At its 13th plenary meeting, on 2 July 2012, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. High-level segment:

   (*a*) High-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions;

   (*b*) Development Cooperation Forum;

   (*c*) Annual ministerial review:

   Theme: "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals";

   (*d*) Thematic discussion:

   Theme: "Macroeconomic policies for productive capacity, employment creation, sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in pursuit of poverty eradication".

Operational activities segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (*a*) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council;

   (*b*) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme.

Coordination segment

4. The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2011 of the Council.

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits:

   (*a*) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

General segment

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits:

   (*b*) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

7. Coordination, programme and other questions:
   (*a*) Reports of coordination bodies;
   (*b*) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014–2015;
   (*c*) International cooperation in the field of informatics;
   (*d*) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system;
   (*e*) Long-term programme of support for Haiti;
   (*f*) African countries emerging from conflict;
   (*g*) Tobacco or health.
8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265.
9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.
10. Regional cooperation:

    Theme: "Regional perspectives on youth and development".
11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.
12. Non-governmental organizations.
13. Economic and environmental questions:
   (*a*) Sustainable development;
   (*b*) Science and technology for development;
   (*c*) Statistics;
   (*d*) Human settlements;
   (*e*) Environment;
   (*f*) Population and development;
   (*g*) Public administration and development;
   (*h*) International cooperation in tax matters;
   (*i*) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;
   (*j*) Cartography;
   (*k*) Women and development.
14. Social and human rights questions:
   (*a*) Advancement of women;
   (*b*) Social development;
   (*c*) Crime prevention and criminal justice;
   (*d*) Narcotic drugs;
   (*e*) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
   (*f*) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
   (*g*) Human rights;
   (*h*) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;
   (*i*) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination.

Checklist of resolutions and decisions

Resolutions

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
2012/1	Admission of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to membership in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/2012/15/Add.2)	10	10 July 2012	13
2012/2	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education (E/2012/L.9)	4	12 July 2012	13
2012/3	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/2012/L.11)	5	20 July 2012	15
2012/4	United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control (E/2012/L.18)	7 (*g*)	24 July 2012	20
2012/5	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (E/2012/31 and Corr.1)	13 (*b*)	24 July 2012	21
2012/6	Science and technology for development (E/2012/31 and Corr.1)	13 (*b*)	24 July 2012	26
2012/7	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/2012/26 and Corr.1)	14 (*b*)	26 July 2012	29
2012/8	Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/2012/26 and Corr.1)	14 (*b*)	26 July 2012	29
2012/9	Poverty eradication (E/2012/26 and Corr.1)	14 (*b*)	26 July 2012	35
2012/10	Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (E/2012/26 and Corr.1)	14 (*b*)	26 July 2012	38
2012/11	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda (E/2012/26 and Corr.1)	14 (*b*)	26 July 2012	40
2012/12	Strategy for the period 2012–2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/2011/28/Add.1 and E/2011/30/Add.1)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	42
2012/13	Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	43
2012/14	Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	46
2012/15	United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	48
2012/16	Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	50

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
2012/17	Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	53
2012/18	Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	57
2012/19	Strengthening international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	59
2012/20	Genetic privacy and non-discrimination (E/2012/L.17)	14 (*i*)	26 July 2012	62
2012/21	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2012/L.16)	7 (*e*)	26 July 2012	63
2012/22	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/2012/L.22)	9	26 July 2012	64
2012/23	Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (E/2012/L.21)	11	26 July 2012	67
2012/24	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2012/L.8)	7 (*d*)	27 July 2012	71
2012/25	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/2012/27 and Corr.1)	14 (*a*)	27 July 2012	73
2012/26	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (E/2012/L.29)	6 (*b*)	27 July 2012	75
2012/27	Human settlements (E/2012/L.33)	13 (*d*)	27 July 2012	79
2012/28	Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eleventh session (E/2012/L.23)	13 (*g*)	27 July 2012	80
2012/29	Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions (E/2012/L.24 and E/2012/SR.48)	14 (*g*)	27 July 2012	82
2012/30	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16 (E/2012/L.32)	6 and 8	27 July 2012	82
2012/31	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (E/2012/L.26 and E/2012/SR.49)	6 (*a*)	27 July 2012	83
2012/32	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session (E/2012/L.25)	13 (*a*)	27 July 2012	86
2012/33	Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2012/L.30)	13 (*h*)	27 July 2012	88

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
2012/34	Venue of the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/2012/L.34)	10	26 November 2012	89
2012/35	Establishment of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/2012/L.35)	10	26 November 2012	89
2012/36	Regional dimension of development in the Latin American and Caribbean region (E/2012/L.36)	10	26 November 2012	90
2012/37	Membership of the Economic and Social Council in the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (E/2012/L.39)	1	20 December 2012	90

Decisions

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
2012/201	Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Economic and Social Council			
	Decision A (E/2012/SR.10 and 11)	4	26 and 27 April 2012	93
	Decision B (E/2012/SR.49)	1	27 July 2012	97
	Decision C (E/2012/SR.52)	1	26 November 2012	98
	Decision D (E/2012/SR.53)	1	20 December 2012	99
2012/202	Proposed date of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (E/2012/L.1)	2 and 3	7 February 2012	100
2012/203	Proposed date of the meeting of the Economic and Social Council on international cooperation in tax matters (E/2012/L.1)	2 and 3	7 February 2012	100
2012/204	Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/L.1)	2 and 3	7 February 2012	100
2012/205	Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 2013 (E/2012/L.1)	2 and 3	7 February 2012	101
2012/206	Working arrangements for the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/L.1)	2 and 3	7 February 2012	101
2012/207	Theme for the thematic discussion of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/L.1)	2 and 3	7 February 2012	101
2012/208	Operational activities segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/L.1)	2 and 3	7 February 2012	101

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
2012/209	Venue and dates of the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/2012/L.1)	2 and 3	7 February 2012	101
2012/210	Theme for the item on regional cooperation of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/L.2)	2 and 3	26 April 2012	102
2012/211	Theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/L.3)	2 and 3	26 April 2012	102
2012/212	Economic and Social Council event to discuss the transition from relief to development (E/2012/L.4)	2 and 3	26 April 2012	102
2012/213	Agenda and organization of work for the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/SR.13)	1	2 July 2012	102
2012/214	Documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012 (E/2012/SR.22 and Add.1)	2	10 July 2012	102
2012/215	Documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme (E/2012/SR.34)	3 (*b*)	17 July 2012	103
2012/216	Quadrennial report of the non-governmental organization Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (E/2012/L.14)	12	23 July 2012	103
2012/217	Application of the non-governmental organization Khmers Kampuchea-Krom Federation for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/L.15)	12	23 July 2012	104
2012/218	Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations (E/2012/32 (Part I) and E/2012/SR.41)	12	23 July 2012	104
2012/219	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its regular session of 2012 (E/2012/32 (Part I))	12	23 July 2012	115
2012/220	Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations (E/2012/32 (Part II) and E/2012/SR.41)	12	23 July 2012	115
2012/221	Withdrawal of consultative status of the non-governmental organization Interfaith International (E/2012/32 (Part II))	12	23 July 2012	121

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
2012/222	Suspension of consultative status of non-governmental organizations with outstanding quadrennial reports, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/4 (E/2012/32 (Part II))	12	23 July 2012	121
2012/223	Reinstatement of consultative status of non-governmental organizations that submitted outstanding quadrennial reports, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/4 (E/2012/32 (Part II))	12	23 July 2012	125
2012/224	Withdrawal of consultative status of non-governmental organizations pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/4 (E/2012/32 (Part II))	12	23 July 2012	126
2012/225	Requests for withdrawal of consultative status (E/2012/32 (Part II))	12	23 July 2012	127
2012/226	Dates of and provisional agenda for the 2013 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/2012/32 (Part II))	12	23 July 2012	127
2012/227	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed session of 2012 (E/2012/32 (Part II))	12	23 July 2012	128
2012/228	Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its sixteenth session (E/2012/31 and Corr.1)	13 (*b*)	24 July 2012	128
2012/229	Documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the item on regional cooperation (E/2012/SR.44)	10	25 July 2012	129
2012/230	Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-fourth session (E/2012/24)	13 (*c*)	25 July 2012	130
2012/231	Report of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twelfth special session (E/2012/SR.45)	13 (*e*)	25 July 2012	133
2012/232	Special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (E/2012/25)	13 (*f*)	25 July 2012	133
2012/233	Timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends (E/2012/25)	13 (*f*)	25 July 2012	134
2012/234	Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-sixth session (E/2012/25)	13 (*f*)	25 July 2012	134
2012/235	Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its first session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its second session (E/2011/46)	13 (*j*)	25 July 2012	135

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
2012/236	Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-first session (E/2012/26 and Corr.1)	14 (*b*)	26 July 2012	136
2012/237	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twentieth session (E/2011/30/Add.1)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	137
2012/238	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for its twenty-second session (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	137
2012/239	Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2)	14 (*c*)	26 July 2012	139
2012/240	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fourth session (E/2011/28/Add.1)	14 (*d*)	26 July 2012	139
2012/241	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-sixth session (E/2012/28)	14 (*d*)	26 July 2012	139
2012/242	Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 (E/2012/28)	14 (*d*)	26 July 2012	141
2012/243	International expert group meeting on the theme "Indigenous youth: identity, challenges and hope: articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (E/2012/43)	14 (*h*)	26 July 2012	141
2012/244	Venue and dates of the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2012/43)	14 (*h*)	26 July 2012	141
2012/245	Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eleventh session and provisional agenda for its twelfth session (E/2012/43)	14 (*h*)	26 July 2012	141
2012/246	Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (E/2012/SR.47)	9	26 July 2012	142
2012/247	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (E/2012/SR.47)	11	26 July 2012	142
2012/248	Ending female genital mutilation (E/2012/27 and Corr.1)	14 (*a*)	27 July 2012	142
2012/249	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-seventh session (E/2012/27 and Corr.1)	14 (*a*)	27 July 2012	142
2012/250	African countries emerging from conflict (E/2012/L.28)	7 (*f*)	27 July 2012	144

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
2012/251	Documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the reports of coordination bodies (E/2012/SR.48)	7 (*a*)	27 July 2012	144
2012/252	Venue and dates of and provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (E/2012/L.27)	13 (*g*)	27 July 2012	144
2012/253	Documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the item on social and human rights questions (E/2012/SR.48)	14 (*a*), (*c*) and (*g*)	27 July 2012	144
2012/254	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security (E/2012/SR.49)	6	27 July 2012	145
2012/255	Venue and dates of and provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2012/L.19)	13 (*h*)	27 July 2012	145
2012/256	Documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2012 (E/2012/SR.52)	3 and 3 (*a*)	26 November 2012	146
2012/257	Additional documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the item on regional cooperation (E/2012/SR.52)	10	26 November 2012	146
2012/258	Documentation considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the item on science and technology for development (E/2012/SR.52)	13 (*b*)	26 November 2012	146
2012/259	Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its second session and venue and dates of and provisional agenda and documentation for its third session (E/2012/46 and Corr.1)	13 (*f*)	26 November 2012	146
2012/260	Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-seventh session and provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth session (E/2012/90)	13 (*f*)	26 November 2012	147
2012/261	Venue for and dates of the Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (E/2012/L.37)	13 (*f*)	26 November 2012	148
2012/262	Report of the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/2012/SR.53)	13 (*f*)	20 December 2012	148
2012/263	Theme for the thematic discussion of the substantive session of 2013 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/L.40)	1	28 January 2013	149

Resolutions

2012/1. Admission of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to membership in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolution 302 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 concerning the requests received from Libya, Morocco and Tunisia for admission to membership in the Commission,

Taking note also of the requests received from Libya, Morocco and Tunisia for admission to membership in the Commission,

1. *Approves* the admission of Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to membership in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take the measures necessary for the implementation of the present resolution.

23rd plenary meeting
10 July 2012

2012/2. The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[3] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[4]

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2011[5] and its resolutions 2008/29 of 24 July 2008 and 2009/29 of 31 July 2009,

Reaffirming its commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, particularly those related to education, including the Education for All goals,

Reaffirming the right to education and the need for its full realization, and that education is essential for human development, sustainable development, world peace, just and democratic societies and the promotion of all human rights, including the right to development,

Recognizing that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, are interlinked, expressing its concern that progress on achieving some of the goals is lagging, and reiterating its commitment to continuing to reinvigorate and strengthen the global partnership for development as a vital element for achieving those goals, in particular the education-related goals,

Recognizing also the growing issue of youth unemployment and the importance of quality education, training and skills development to enhance employability and ease the transition to decent jobs, and to help to remove some of the major constraints for the employability of young people, and in this respect reiterating the importance of full

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[1] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[3] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[4] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/66/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect. E, para. 107.

and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes through appropriate channels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2012;[6]

2. *Recognizes* efforts made by the United Nations system to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 2 and Education for All and related goals, and encourages further efforts in that regard;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments to take the lead in education, and underlines the importance of commitments by national Governments, official institutions and local authorities to education, recognizing that each country has primary responsibility for and ownership of its own economic and social development and that development strategies, national policies and domestic resources are critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals, and calls upon the United Nations system to support those national efforts and commitments;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations system to increase its efforts and mobilize adequate resources to raise the profile of the international education agenda and maximize educational results;

5. *Looks forward* to the launch of the Secretary-General's Global Initiative on Education;

6. *Calls upon* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate and within their mandates, to give attention to addressing factors of marginalization in education for all, particularly with regard to rural and indigenous women and girls;

7. *Urges* the United Nations system to support national efforts to improve the quality of education, so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes can be achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to support the efforts of Member States to improve the collection and analysis of education data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, location and other relevant factors for effective policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

9. *Also calls upon* the United Nations system to support the efforts of countries to counter the portrayal of stereotyped roles of women and men that can restrain educational choices at all levels of education;

10. *Encourages* efforts to provide education in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the contribution of voluntary partnerships on education to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, while reiterating that they are a complement to, but not intended to substitute for, the commitment made by Governments with a view to achieving those goals;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to act as a framework provider and a facilitator for partnerships on education with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, with a view to building trust among all actors and sharing good practices and lessons learned for the final push to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goals;

13. *Urges* the relevant United Nations entities working in the education, health and food sectors, within their respective mandates, to seek synergies in order to enhance enrolment, retention, participation and achievement of girls and boys at school and maximize interventions to the benefit of children;

14. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations entities and the international financial institutions working in the economic and educational fields to strengthen their collaboration in order to advance, as appropriate, technical and vocational training, higher education, access to and participation in the workforce and the promotion of entrepreneurship among youth;

[6] E/2012/66.

15. *Encourages* relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to assess emerging trends in education and training, particularly the increased focus on learning outcomes, teacher training and the use of information and communications technologies in education processes, and to analyse the implications for their programmes on education;

16. *Stresses* that, when assisting Member States, upon their request, in determining future policy options, the United Nations system should have a broad vision that encompasses early childhood care and education, youth and adult literacy and vocational skills development as well as concern for the improvement of the quality and relevance of basic learning;

17. *Also stresses* that achieving development goals on education requires a coordinated and integrated approach in support of national and local efforts, involving all relevant stakeholders, including, as appropriate, civil society and the private sector;

18. *Encourages* appropriate consideration of education in the processes devoted to the definition of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

19. *Decides* to continue monitoring progress in education-related development goals and commitments, including the role of partnerships in education.

28th plenary meeting
12 July 2012

2012/3. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect those principles,

Recalling its decision 2012/211 of 26 April 2012, in which the Council decided to consider the theme "Working in partnership to strengthen coordination of humanitarian assistance in a changing world" at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2012,

Recalling also that, in its decision 2012/211, the Council decided to convene two panels, on the themes "Improving capacities for evidence-based humanitarian decision-making" and "Partnerships for effective humanitarian assistance in support of national, regional and international efforts"; and that, in its decision 2012/212 of 26 April 2012, it decided to hold an informal event on the theme "Humanitarian needs in the Sahel and the importance of building resilience",

Expressing grave concern at the increase in the number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those associated with natural hazards and complex emergencies, at the increased impact of natural disasters and at the displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies,

Reiterating the need to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

Expressing deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity posed by the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, by the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis and by the global food crisis and continuing food insecurity, and the potential of those challenges to increase the need for resources for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, including in developing countries,

Condemning the increasing number of attacks and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, assets and supplies, and expressing deep concern about the negative implications of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

Emphasizing that building and strengthening resilience at the local, national and regional levels is critical to reducing the impact of disasters, including by saving lives, reducing suffering, mitigating damage to property and providing a more predictable and effective delivery of assistance and relief, and in this regard, while recognizing that building resilience is a long-term development process, stressing the need for continued investment in preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response capacity,

Recognizing the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

Noting the contribution, as appropriate, of relevant regional and subregional organizations in the provision of humanitarian assistance within their region, upon the request of the affected State,

Recognizing that volunteerism can make an important contribution to community and nationally led efforts in all stages of humanitarian action, and the important role of women, young people, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples in this regard,

Recognizing also the need for the United Nations system and its partners to improve and strengthen coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system in support of national efforts, and taking note of the efforts made by the United Nations and its partners, including through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should continue to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, and encourages the international community to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks and prepare for and respond to disasters;

3. *Urges* Member States to assess their progress in strengthening preparedness levels for humanitarian response, with a view to increasing efforts to develop, update and strengthen disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[8] in particular priority 5 thereof, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, to give increased priority to preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities, in particular by supporting national and local efforts in that regard;

4. *Encourages* Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to continue to support adaptation to the effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, especially for those countries that are particularly vulnerable;

5. *Encourages* Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance, and encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, based on recognition of their important role in providing humanitarian assistance;

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[7] A/67/89-E/2012/77.

[8] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

6. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels in relation to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance adopted at the thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 November 2007, and encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account, as appropriate, the Guidelines, and notes the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop a model act on the subject, which were welcomed at the thirty-first International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 28 November to 1 December 2011;

7. *Encourages* efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts;

8. *Also encourages* efforts to provide education in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

9. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and urges relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, including civil society, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

10. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve the dialogue with Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

11. *Encourages* Member States to improve cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

12. *Encourages* United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

13. *Welcomes* the continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity in order to provide a timely, predictable, coordinated and accountable response to humanitarian needs, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in that regard, in consultation with Member States, including by strengthening support to and improving the identification, selection and training of United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators;

14. *Requests* the United Nations system and other relevant actors to continue to improve and strengthen humanitarian coordination mechanisms, notably at the field level, including the existing cluster coordination mechanism, and by improving partnership and coordination with national and local authorities, including the use of national/local coordination mechanisms, where possible;

15. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts, in order to effectively cooperate to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

16. *Recognizes* the benefits for the effectiveness of the humanitarian response of the engagement of and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

17. *Expresses concern* at the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter, food and health-care services in humanitarian emergencies, and notes with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels that promote effective cooperation in that regard;

18. *Requests* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

19. *Encourages* Member States to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of information with humanitarian organizations of the United Nations, in order to support preparedness efforts and to improve the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

20. *Requests* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations and other relevant actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys, taking into consideration age and disability, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, taking into account, inter alia, the information provided by States;

21. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Development Group to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, in order to ensure the full implementation of the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system;

22. *Also requests* the United Nations to continue to develop specialist technical expertise and capacity to fill gaps in critical humanitarian programming and to procure emergency relief material rapidly and cost-effectively, and locally when appropriate, in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination and provision of international humanitarian assistance;

23. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately addressed;

24. *Urges* all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality as well as the principle of independence, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

25. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

26. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

27. *Calls upon* all States and parties to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[9] in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in that regard urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians in those situations;

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

28. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies operating within their borders, and in other territories under their effective control, recognizes the need for appropriate collaboration between humanitarian actors and relevant authorities of the affected State in matters related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and urges Member States to ensure that perpetrators of crimes committed against humanitarian personnel on their territory or in other territories under their effective control do not operate with impunity and are brought to justice as provided for by national laws and in accordance with obligations under international law;

29. *Encourages* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include as part of their risk management strategy the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors, in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

30. *Emphasizes* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, reaffirms the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles;

31. *Urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services for victims of such violence, and calls for a more effective response in that regard;

32. *Notes* the increasing challenges facing Member States, in particular developing countries, and the international humanitarian response system in responding effectively to all humanitarian emergencies, in particular the underfunded and forgotten emergencies, and in that regard stresses the need to enhance existing partnerships and build new ones, strengthen financing mechanisms, broaden the donor base and engage other partners to ensure adequate resources for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

33. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make contributions and to consider increasing and diversifying their contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, including consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, as a means of ensuring flexible, predictable, timely, needs-based and, where possible, multi-year, non-earmarked and additional resources to meet global humanitarian challenges, encourages donors to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship,[10] and reiterates that contributions for humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way that is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

34. *Recognizes* that building preparedness is a long-term investment that will contribute to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including a reduction in the need for humanitarian response, and therefore further encourages Member States and other relevant actors to provide effective, predictable, flexible and adequate funding for preparedness activities, and stresses that international preparedness efforts reinforce national and local response capacities and support existing national and local institutions;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

39th plenary meeting
20 July 2012

[10] A/58/99-E/2003/94, annex II.

2012/4. United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control,[11] in which the need to further strengthen the multisectoral and inter-agency response for the full implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,[12] as appropriate, is emphasized,

Recognizing the adverse impact of tobacco use on public health, as well as its social, economic and environmental consequences, including for efforts toward poverty eradication,

Considering the impact of non-communicable diseases related to tobacco use as a global epidemic, and recognizing that substantially reducing tobacco consumption is an important contribution to reducing non-communicable diseases and can have considerable health benefits for individuals and countries,

Acknowledging that the work of the Task Force should be consistent with system-wide coherence approaches to ensure that the United Nations system is able to deliver in a strategic and coordinated manner at the country level in support of the implementation of the Convention, where appropriate, in alignment with national priorities,

Recalling the obligation of Member States that are parties to the Convention to set up comprehensive, multisectoral national control strategies, plans and programmes, with support from the Convention secretariat, upon request,

Welcoming the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011,[13] and recalling the first Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control, organized by the Russian Federation and the World Health Organization and held in Moscow on 28 and 29 April 2011,

Welcoming also the joint letter dated 26 March 2012 sent by the Director-General of the World Health Organization and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to United Nations country teams to support country-level work on non-communicable diseases in a coordinated manner,

Recognizing the leading role of the World Health Organization as the primary specialized agency for health, including its roles and functions with regard to health policy within its mandate, in particular through its important work in the context of tobacco control and in the spirit of the "whole-of-WHO" working approach, and reaffirming its leadership and coordination role in promoting and monitoring global action against non-communicable diseases in relation to the work of other relevant United Nations agencies, development banks and other regional and international organizations in addressing non-communicable diseases in a coordinated manner,

Recognizing also the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health, including in the work of the United Nations,

1. *Encourages* the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control to promote effective tobacco control policies and assistance mechanisms at the national level, including through the integration of implementation efforts in respect of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control[12] within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, where appropriate, in order to promote coordinated and complementary work among funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

2. *Invites* all members of the Task Force and other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to contribute, as appropriate, to the goals of the Convention, including through multisectoral assistance, public outreach and communication, in particular in the context of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to further integrate the aims of the Convention within the activities undertaken in the context of the

[11] E/2012/70.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2302, No. 41032.

[13] General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex.

implementation of the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[13] in view of the fact that tobacco is itself one of the main risk factors for the most prominent non-communicable diseases, while also being associated with other risk factors;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to convene annual meetings of the Task Force;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013 options to effectively monitor the work of the Task Force and the integration of implementation efforts in respect of the Convention within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, where appropriate, in order to promote coordinated and complementary work among funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2012

2012/5. Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[14]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2011/16 of 26 July 2011 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/184 of 22 December 2011 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[15]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms: information and communication technology for development",[16]

Noting the submission by the Commission of the report entitled "Implementing WSIS outcomes: experience to date and prospects for the future" as an information document,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[14] emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

2. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission, and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July

[14] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687.
[15] A/67/66-E/2012/49.
[16] E/CN.16/2010/3.

2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

3. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[15] including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

5. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding in Geneva, from 14 to 18 May 2012, of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2012, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, as a multi-stakeholder platform for the coordination of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and to facilitate the implementation of the World Summit action lines;

7. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

8. *Welcomes* the progress highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General,[15] in particular the fact that the rapid growth in mobile telephony since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants will have access to information and communications technologies within their reach, in line with one of the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, mobile transactions, e-government, e-business and development services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

9. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

10. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

11. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and notes with concern that there is a growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-income countries and other regions, with least developed countries and Africa as a continent lagging behind the rest of the world;

12. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

13. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not affordable to the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

14. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that in some instances the digital divide is also changing in character, from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value they can derive from it, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

15. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the Broadband Leadership Summit, hosted by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development in Geneva on 24 and 25 October 2011 as a unique event that united key decision makers and helped to foster relationships and policies to boost the roll-out and deployment of broadband;

16. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

17. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

18. *Notes* that topics that were not central at the first and second phases of the World Summit in 2003 and 2005 continue to emerge, such as the potential of information and communications technologies to combat climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services is essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

Internet governance

20. *Reaffirms* paragraph 20 of its resolution 2011/16 and General Assembly resolution 66/184;

21. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[17]

Enhanced cooperation

22. *Recalls* that, in resolution 66/184, the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to convene, in conjunction with the fifteenth session of the Commission, a one-day open, inclusive and interactive meeting involving all Member States and other stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, with a view to identifying a shared understanding of enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the

[17] See A/60/687.

Internet, in accordance with paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Tunis Agenda, and requested the Secretary-General to include information on the outcome of the meeting when preparing his report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the resolution;

23. *Notes* the holding of the open consultations on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, convened by the Chair of the Commission in Geneva on 18 May 2012;

24. *Decides* to forward, for information purposes, the report of the Chair of the Commission on the outcome of the meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, while noting that there is no consensus on the accuracy and balance of how the views expressed in the meeting are reflected in the report;

Internet Governance Forum

25. *Notes* that the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum has successfully completed its task;

26. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Working Group,[18] and expresses its gratitude to all members of the Working Group for their time and valuable efforts in this endeavour, as well as to all Member States and other relevant stakeholders that submitted inputs to the Working Group consultation process;

The road ahead

27. *Urges* United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[19]

28. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide, in its different forms, an area of priority concern, put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide among and within countries;

29. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divide;

30. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

31. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[20]

32. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review and modify the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(*a*) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development;

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[18] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1.

[19] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[20] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

(*b*) Calls upon the Partnership to further its work on measuring the impact of information and communications technologies, particularly in developing countries, by creating practical guidelines, methodologies and indicators;

(*c*) Notes the holding, in Pailles, Mauritius, from 7 to 9 December 2011, of the ninth World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting, which enhanced the capacity of Governments in the collection of relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies;

(*d*) Calls upon United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to study the implications of the current world economic situation on information and communications technology deployment, in particular connectivity through broadband, and its economic sustainability;

(*e*) Encourages Governments to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(*f*) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts;

(*g*) Calls upon international development partners to provide financial support to further facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries;

33. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland to this fund;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

35. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure the continued functioning of the Internet Governance Forum and its structures in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Forum, to be held in Baku from 6 to 9 November 2012, and future meetings of the Forum;

36. *Notes* the need to appoint the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Internet Governance and the Executive Coordinator of the Internet Governance Forum;

37. *Recalls* paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, in which the General Assembly was requested to make an overall review of the implementation of World Summit outcomes in 2015, and paragraph 106 of the Tunis Agenda, according to which the World Summit implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

38. *Also recalls* paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 66/184, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its role in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, and decided to consider the modalities for this review process at its sixty-seventh session;

39. *Notes* the open and inclusive consultation process of the United Nations Group on the Information Society that has been taking place on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit outcomes, and also notes the role of the Commission, set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

40. *Recommends* that, consistent with the World Summit process and subject to the decision by the General Assembly, an appropriate preparatory process should be launched, drawing from the experience of the two phases of the World Summit;

41. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on the stocktaking of activities related to the World Summit, which serves as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the World Summit;

42. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit Project Prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

43. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the United Nations Group on the Information Society directed towards incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

44. *Recognizes* the enabling role of information and communications technologies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and reiterates the importance of the contribution of the World Summit process to the achievement of the Goals.

43rd plenary meeting
24 July 2012

2012/6. Science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, in addressing global challenges and in realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,[21]

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recalling further the work of the Commission on science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research, and on development-oriented policies for a socioeconomically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure and an enabling environment,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society" and "Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education",

Recognizing that collaborative learning is central to innovation, technology transfer and entrepreneurship, and involves absorptive and productive capacity-building at the individual and organizational levels,

Recognizing also the work of United Nations institutions, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in analysing the impact of the transfer of technology on trade and development,

Noting that open access and virtual science libraries are two complementary mechanisms to increase and extend knowledge flows and help developing countries to obtain data and research,

Noting also that greater attention needs to be paid to the growing array of online scientific and technical resources relevant to scientific and technical communities worldwide,

[21] General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 60.

Recognizing that the effective introduction of information and communications technologies in education requires not only access to technology but also capacities for science, technology and innovation, absorption and production through development of human resources, educational framework conditions, infrastructure and progressive national policies,

Noting that geographic information systems and geospatial analysis are used in many sectors of society and have important applications in addressing development challenges but remain underutilized for transformational potential,

Recognizing that, in its resolution 66/211 of 22 December 2011 on science and technology for development, the General Assembly encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Taking note with appreciation of the high-quality science, technology and innovation policy reviews prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for El Salvador and Peru, and the emphasis placed on the need to monitor the implementation of science, technology and innovation policy reviews by countries, as exemplified in the report by Angola,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension until 2015 of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, and General Assembly resolutions 66/129 of 19 December 2011, 66/211 and 66/216 of 22 December 2011 addressing, respectively, the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Taking note of the report entitled "Applying a gender lens to science, technology and innovation", prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in close collaboration with the Gender Advisory Board,

Recognizing that it is crucial to understand the means by which people of different genders, ages, socioeconomic situations and organizations build the capabilities required to achieve greater capacities for entrepreneurship and collaborative development,

Decides to make the following recommendations for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(*a*) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) Promote the development of information and communications technology platforms, involving national research institutes and universities, with a view to participating in international research networks and benefiting from opportunities for collaborative learning;

(ii) Ensure that multilateral governance mechanisms and standardization bodies of information and communications technology and global networks are democratic, fair and coherent, with effective participation of developing countries;

(iii) Promote national policies to encourage the use of information and communications technologies, especially those that have been tailored to local needs in their countries, and establish programmes for the improvement of human resources in this field;

(iv) Foster partnerships with other stakeholders to overcome basic infrastructural constraints, in areas such as electricity and other services, that limit access to and use of information and communications technology resources, with particular attention to locally adapted solutions that can be scaled up regionally;

(v) Collaborate to address the "content divide" by exploring ways of increasing online scientific publications and accessibility of content in local languages;

(vi) Encourage national research agencies and foundations to provide data and research results to the public domain and make them freely available in an open and accessible format;

(vii) Also encourage international collaboration in disseminating digitized publications resulting from publicly funded research, making them freely available online and easily accessible;

(viii) Further encourage, in partnership with other stakeholders, the logistical and financial viability of virtual science libraries, in particular those that include a platform to facilitate networking among scientists across geographical boundaries and provide an integrated search capability across all available online publications;

(ix) Encourage the formation of national research and education networks, which promote networking among scientists, increase collective buying power for online science research services, including access to journals, and result in the sharing of scarce resources;

(x) Strengthen secondary and post-secondary curricula to better integrate geographic information systems and fundamental concepts of geography that enrich spatial thinking into national education programmes and support teachers through training to better integrate such systems, geography and spatial thinking into their professional development;

(xi) Establish bodies dedicated to obtaining, storing and disseminating geographic data, including remote sensing data, to make geographic information system data available for public use at the lowest cost;

(xii) Involve the private sector in the process of increasing technology openness for geospatial data, with, for example, public sector organizations such as government agencies and libraries collaborating with private sector firms to index geospatial information and make it easily searchable and available online;

(xiii) Promote the dissemination of successful experiences, including those involving constraint-based innovations, to foster an innovative culture through mechanisms such as the creation of awards and mass media campaigns;

(xiv) Encourage and support efforts aimed at learning and capacity development at the firm and industry levels through the provision of an enabling environment;

(xv) Encourage scientific, research and academic institutions in their countries, especially in developed countries, to collaborate with counterparts in all other countries, with particular attention to those in the least developed countries;

(xvi) Recognize the need to continue providing adequate funding and resources for science and technology, particularly in developing countries;

(xvii) Consider mechanisms with a view to applying a gender lens in scientific research, from the setting of the agenda to the design and implementation of projects, for example, through the use of quotas and gender-sensitive assessment and evaluation;

(*b*) The Commission and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are encouraged:

(i) With respect to the Commission, to continue in the role of torch-bearer for innovation, to raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention to be placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries, especially for small and medium enterprises and individual entrepreneurs;

(ii) To share and analyse evidence on the development of innovative capacities, including at the firm level, especially for small and medium enterprises, to understand the social and economic dimensions of those processes and provide insights for the development of public policy;

(iii) To provide a forum for dialogue and for the sharing of best practices and experiences to identify and recommend ways and appropriate measures to promote innovation, research and development, new knowledge creation and technology transfer, as well as information and communications technologies for capacity-building in science, technology and engineering education and research and entrepreneurship for the benefit of developing countries, and in this context explore ways to expand cooperation among all countries, with particular attention to sharing available resources online;

(iv) To develop metrics to assess progress made by countries to implement science, technology and innovation policy review recommendations for developing science and technology and innovation policies

and other recommendations they have acted upon and, if requested by those countries, to conduct periodic reviews to monitor such progress;

(v) To encourage the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to invite the Board to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to consider integrating a gender perspective into the science, technology and innovation policy reviews, where appropriate.

43rd plenary meeting
24 July 2012

2012/7. Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006 and 2008/19 of 24 July 2008 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also its resolution 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, in which it noted the usefulness of identifying the theme for the 2013–2014 review and policy cycle during the fiftieth session of the Commission,

1. *Reaffirms* that the current practice of discussing one core issue over a two-year period has allowed the Commission for Social Development to go into greater depth by also addressing related cross-cutting issues and emerging issues relevant to the theme under discussion;

2. *Decides* to maintain the two-year review and policy cycle;

3. *Reaffirms* that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should continue to be elected for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle;

4. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2013–2014 review and policy cycle shall be "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all";

5. *Stresses* the importance of identifying relevant sub-themes within the priority theme, in order to focus interventions and discussions, and of taking into account cross-cutting issues during subsequent sessions of the Commission;

6. *Decides* that the Commission shall utilize, as appropriate, its agenda item on emerging issues to promote consideration of relevant issues on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, including the theme of the annual ministerial review;

7. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to continue to participate in the work of the Commission at an appropriately high level;

8. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-first session on ways and means to strengthen its work, taking into account the views of Member States.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/8. Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[22] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for

[22] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[23]

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[24] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[25] and recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[26] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002[27] and Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recognizing the commitments made with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit[25] and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,[28]

Noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004, including relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting also the full integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[29] into the structures and processes of the African Union and the establishment of the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union to replace the secretariat of the New Partnership,

Remaining concerned that, while Africa continues to make steady progress towards attainment of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, this progress is, however, not enough for all countries to attain all of the Goals by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership, and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community, partners of the New Partnership and United Nations agencies to continue to work towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development on the African continent, and for greater synergy and effective coordination between the New Partnership and the international initiatives related to Africa, such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, co-organized by the African Union, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the Government of Japan,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,[30]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[31]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[29] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound

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[23] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[24] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[25] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[26] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[27] General Assembly resolution 57/2.

[28] General Assembly resolution 63/1.

[29] A/57/304, annex.

[30] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[31] E/CN.5/2012/2.

economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the good progress that has been made in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in those countries and the completion of the annual progress reports and self-assessment processes, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of national preparatory processes for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism as a matter of priority and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

4. *Recalls* the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development, held in Windhoek from 27 to 31 October 2008, welcomes the second session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Khartoum from 21 to 25 November 2010, under the theme "Strengthening social policy action towards social inclusion", and recalls in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of those institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa;

7. *Also emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship;

8. *Further emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

9. *Emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptable high levels of poverty and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, to promote education, health and social protection and to enhance social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Also emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

11. *Recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

12. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

13. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives undertaken by Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for

Africa's Development African Action Plan 2010–2015: Advancing Regional and Continental Integration in Africa, which remains at the centre of the continent's engagement with partners;

14. *Recognizes* the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities;

15. *Urges* continuous support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, with special emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty and hunger, health, education, the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, the empowerment of women, in all aspects, including economic and political aspects, the promotion of social protection systems and the conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization;

16. *Underscores* the importance for African Governments to raise agricultural productivity in order to increase rural incomes and access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase access for smallholder farmers to necessary agricultural resources and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

17. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second Decade (2008–2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

18. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth, capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, and of reducing inequalities and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

19. *Urges* African countries and development partners to tackle the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of education and training programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

20. *Encourages* all development partners to implement principles of aid effectiveness, as recalled in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted on 2 December 2008 by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;[32]

21. *Recognizes* the need for national Governments and the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries;

22. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

23. *Encourages* Africa's development partners to continue to integrate the priorities, values and principles of the New Partnership into their development assistance programmes;

24. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of Government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and

[32] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a systemic base to address poverty and vulnerability;

25. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on communication, advocacy and outreach to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership and to urge the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

27. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges commitments made by development partners;

28. *Encourages* the international community to support African countries in addressing the challenges of climate change by providing the financial and technological resources and capacity-building training needed to support adaptation and mitigation action;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and to include the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

30. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the programmes of work of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

31. *Decides* that the Commission should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership at its fifty-first session;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009 and 64/258 of 16 March 2010, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission, for consideration at its fifty-first session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to the New Partnership, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies, while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/9. Poverty eradication

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, in which the Council decided that the priority theme for the 2011–2012 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development should be poverty eradication, taking into account its relationship with social integration and full employment and decent work for all,

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[33] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly

[33] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

at its twenty-fourth special session,[34] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[35] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[36] and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[37]

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[38]

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that an enabling environment at all levels therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Recalling that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development places people at the centre of development,

Stressing that respect for all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, is of crucial importance for all policies and programmes to fight extreme poverty,

Recognizing that empowering people to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development and its principal resource and that empowerment requires the full participation of people in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of decisions determining the functioning and well-being of society,

Concerned about the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all parts of the world, in various economic, social and cultural situations, and that its extent and its manifestations are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Expressing concern that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recalling the commitment to invest in children and the vow to break the cycle of poverty within a single generation, united in the conviction that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty,

Expressing concern that unemployment and underemployment levels remain persistently high in many countries, particularly among the younger generations,

Recalling the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization[39] and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted on 18 June 1998 by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-sixth session,

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all, and that these should constitute a fundamental component of relevant national and international

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[34] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[35] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[36] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[37] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[38] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[39] A/63/538-E/2009/4, annex.

policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, including in all developing countries, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Recognizing that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development and their effective use are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting the special event on the financing of social development, held on 3 February 2012 and organized by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the Chair of the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session,

Recognizing that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

Recalling that the theme of the 2012 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council is "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

Recognizing the importance of agricultural and rural development and food production for the eradication of poverty and for helping developing countries to reach the poverty and hunger targets of the Millennium Development Goals,

Reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, which is critical for the eradication of poverty,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[40]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[33] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for the work of the Commission;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

5. *Also emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,[41] have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

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[40] E/CN.5/2012/3.

[41] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

6. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

7. *Expresses deep concern* that the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile food and energy prices and food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations, have negative implications for social development;

8. *Emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should tackle poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated into those policies;

9. *Stresses* that poverty eradication policies should, inter alia, ensure, for people living in poverty, access to education, health, social protection, water and sanitation and other public and social services, as well as to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information, and ensure that citizens and local communities participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes in this regard;

10. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy, and invites Governments to consider developing complementary measures that better reflect the multidimensionality of poverty;

11. *Also recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and access to education and employment, through integrated development strategies;

12. *Further recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

14. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

15. *Further reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

16. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, recognizes that decent work remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to support Member

States, in particular developing countries, in their efforts to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all, taking into account the resolution entitled "Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact", adopted on 19 June 2009 by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session;

17. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges to social development posed by globalization and market-driven reforms, in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

18. *Also reaffirms* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[35] and in this context recalls the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000;[42]

19. *Recalls* the commitment, undertaken at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, to redouble efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality and improve the health of women and children, including through strengthened national health systems, efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, improved nutrition and access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, making use of enhanced global partnerships;[37]

20. *Notes with grave concern* the vicious cycle whereby non-communicable diseases and their risk factors worsen poverty, while poverty contributes to rising rates of non-communicable diseases, posing a threat to public health and economic and social development, and in this regard stresses the importance of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including through multisectoral actions, and encourages the continued inclusion of non-communicable diseases in development cooperation agendas and initiatives;

21. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be distributed more equitably, and in that regard calls upon States to promote more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains through, inter alia, policies that ensure inclusive labour markets and by implementing socially responsive macroeconomic policies in which employment has a key role and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, including through social protection floors, including for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations;

22. *Underlines* the need for substantial additional investment and better policies and enhanced international cooperation in support of sustainable agricultural development, while paying special attention to the diversification of rural incomes, including by promoting the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises among the rural poor;

23. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.70 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

24. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, including social partners, to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, recognizing the need for social protection systems to provide social security and support labour market participation, and also urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in or vulnerable to poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a systemic base to address poverty and vulnerability;

25. *Encourages* Member States to design and implement policies and strategies for poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, including the promotion of full and productive employment that is appropriately and adequately remunerated, as well as policies and strategies for social integration that promote

[42] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

gender equality and the empowerment of women and that address the specific needs of social groups such as young people, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, taking into account the concerns of these groups in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and policies;

26. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty and inequality;

27. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

28. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

29. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and regional and civil society organizations, to share the good practices of programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

30. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner;

31. *Notes* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, policy recommendations on the issue of poverty eradication, taking into account the discussions held at the fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development under the priority theme.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/10. Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009 and 66/126 of 19 December 2011 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year provide a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated, comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the follow-up to the International Year is an integral part of the agenda and of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development until 2014,

Noting the active role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation in family-related issues, particularly in the areas of research and information, including the compilation, analysis and dissemination of data,

Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Stressing the importance of creating a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large,

Recognizing that the overall objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes continue to guide national and international efforts to improve family well-being worldwide,

Emphasizing that it is necessary to increase coordination of the activities of the United Nations system on family-related issues in order to contribute fully to the effective implementation of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014[43] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Urges* Member States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be made to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;

3. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to review annually the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year as part of its agenda and of its multi-year programme of work until 2014;

4. *Also requests* the Commission to adopt the following themes to guide the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year: (*a*) poverty eradication: confronting family poverty and social exclusion; (*b*) full employment and decent work: ensuring work-family balance; and (*c*) social integration: advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider undertaking activities in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national level;

6. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen or, if necessary, establish relevant national agencies or governmental bodies responsible for the implementation and monitoring of family policies and to research the impact of social policies on families;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to develop appropriate policies to address family poverty, social exclusion, work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity and to share good practices in those areas;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to adopt effective means of delivering family-centred benefits, such as social protection and social transfer programmes, including cash transfer programmes, to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

9. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, including flexible part-time employment opportunities and arrangements, promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, enhance paternal involvement and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

10. *Also encourages* Member States to support intergenerational solidarity through the provision of social protection schemes, including pensions, and investment in cross-generational facilities, volunteering programmes aimed at youth and older persons, and mentoring and job-sharing programmes;

11. *Recommends* United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, and invites relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research and academic institutions, to work closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in a coordinated manner on family-related issues, including the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

[43] A/67/61-E/2012/3.

12. *Encourages* the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to participate in the preparatory process for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year and to play an active role in facilitating regional cooperation in this regard;

13. *Invites* Member States, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support, as appropriate, the preparations for regional meetings in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

14. *Invites* Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their activities in support of the objectives of and preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year and to share good practices and data on family policy development for inclusion in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/11. Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[44] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[45]

Recalling also the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[46] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[47] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[48] in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling further its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities and further promotion of equalization of opportunities and mainstreaming of disability in the development agenda and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

Welcoming the fact that, since the opening for signature on 30 March 2007 of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto,[49] 152 States and 1 regional integration organization have signed and 117 States have ratified or acceded to and 1 regional integration organization has formally confirmed the Convention and 90 States have signed and 71 States have ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol, and encouraging all States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol,

Noting that the Convention provides comprehensive coverage of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities,

Noting also that persons with disabilities, who face a greater risk of living in absolute poverty, make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population,[50] of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries,[51] and

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[44] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[45] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[46] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[47] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[48] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[49] Ibid., vol. 2518, No. 44910.

[50] According to the *World Report on Disability*, published in 2011 by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population lives with a disability.

[51] In General Assembly resolution 65/186, it is stated that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries. The figure of 80 per cent, which originated from the United Nations Development Programme, was quoted in a discussion paper entitled "Disability and poverty: a survey of World Bank poverty assessments and implications" (Jeanine Braithwaite and Daniel Mont, SP discussion paper No. 0805, World Bank, February 2008).

recognizing the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda, in particular for developing countries,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and promoting their equal enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of the collection and compilation of national data and information regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics, that are disaggregated by gender and age, which could be used by Governments to enable their development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, while reiterating the request to the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance within existing resources, including the provision of assistance, in particular to developing countries, for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on disabilities,

Underlining the importance of mobilizing resources at all levels for the successful implementation of the Standard Rules, the World Programme of Action and the Convention, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation in combating discrimination based on disability and in mainstreaming disability in the global development agenda for the promotion of the linkages between disability and global development priorities, including poverty reduction and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to hold a one-day high-level meeting, at the level of Heads of State and Government, during its sixty-eighth session, with the overarching theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond", in order to strengthen efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[52]

3. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his report;[53]

4. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support the objectives of the Trust Fund, including by providing voluntary contributions;

5. *Calls upon* Member States and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and, in reviewing progress towards the achievement of the Goals, to assess the extent to which persons with disabilities have benefited from those efforts;

6. *Encourages* all Member States, concerned intergovernmental organizations, international and regional organizations, civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector to engage in cooperative arrangements and strategic partnerships to facilitate technical cooperation to advance disability-inclusive development;

[52] E/CN.5/2012/6.

[53] See E/CN.5/2012/7.

7. *Encourages* stakeholders at the regional and subregional levels to include the perspectives of persons with disabilities in all forms of development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to build collaborative frameworks for mainstreaming disability, including the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, at the national level;

8. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, within its existing resources, and other stakeholders to improve data and statistics on disability, taking into account existing guidelines published by the United Nations, as a basis for strengthening evidence-based policymaking and to share good practices and experiences in order to overcome barriers and further advance disability-inclusive development;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to enhance partnerships for international cooperation between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations and to enhance its role in forging partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, in particular with organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector, to provide opportunities and forums, within existing resources, for promoting linkages between disability and the mainstream development agenda;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to seize every opportunity to include disability as a cross-cutting issue in the global development agenda, including in the setting up of the post-2015 United Nations development framework, in the dialogues and outcomes of relevant United Nations development conferences and in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process, as appropriate;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation in the implementation of the international development goals, and the need to eliminate existing inequalities between women and men with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to collaborate, as appropriate, with all relevant stakeholders, including special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, in accordance with his or her mandate;

13. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session an annual report on his activities on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission at its fifty-first session, as a contribution to the upcoming high-level meeting of the General Assembly.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/12. Strategy for the period 2012–2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/8 of 11 November 2011 on programme planning,

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/10 of 25 March 2011[54] and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/1 of 13 April 2011,[55] in which the Commissions requested the Secretariat and the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop, as follow-up to the strategy for the period 2008–2011 for the Office, an updated strategy for the period 2012–2015 and to present such a strategy to the Commissions for their consideration, and urged the Secretariat to continue to ensure that the updated strategy, as approved by Member States and as reflected in the strategic frameworks covering the bienniums 2012–2013 and 2014–2015, guides the formulation of clearly defined objectives, improved benchmarks and performance indicators measuring both qualitatively and quantitatively the impact of the work of the Office, in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on results-based budgeting,

[54] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 8* (E/2011/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[55] Ibid., *Supplement No. 10* (E/2011/30), chap. I, sect. D.

1. *Approves* the strategy for the period 2012–2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;[56]

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to ensure that the strategy for the period 2012–2015 is reflected in the strategic framework for the period 2014–2015 and to present the latter to the relevant intergovernmental bodies, for their consideration and approval.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/13. Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the long-standing concern of the United Nations for the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of human rights,

Reaffirming the importance of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, and especially of promoting their implementation,

Emphasizing that in the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,[57] Member States recognized that an effective, fair and humane criminal justice system was based on the commitment to uphold the protection of human rights in the administration of justice and the prevention and control of crime and acknowledged the value and impact of the United Nations standards and norms in designing and implementing national crime prevention and criminal justice policies, laws, procedures and programmes,

Recalling its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, entitled "Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", in which it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to establish an open-ended intergovernmental expert group to exchange information on best practices, as well as national legislation and existing international law, and on the revision of existing United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners so that they reflected recent advances in correctional science and best practices, with a view to making recommendations to the Commission on possible next steps, and requested the expert group to report to the Commission on progress in its work,

Aware that the penitentiary system is one of the key components of the criminal justice system and that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners[58] have been of value and influence in the development of correctional laws, policies and practices,

Convinced that prisons should be used as a punishment only for individuals who have committed serious offences or when necessary to protect the public,

Convinced also that specific efforts should be made to use alternative measures, in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),[59]

Taking into account the progressive development of international instruments pertaining to the treatment of prisoners since 1955, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[60] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[61]

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[56] E/CN.7/2011/9/Add.2-E/CN.15/2011/9/Add.2.

[57] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

[58] *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, Volume I (First Part), *Universal Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XIV.4 (Vol. I, Part 1)), sect. J, No. 34.

[59] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

[60] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

[61] Ibid., vol. 2375, No. 24841.

Taking into account also the relevance of the procedures for the effective implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1984/47 of 25 May 1984, the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment,[62] the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners,[63] the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty[64] and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[65]

Taking into account further the work carried out by the Latin American Standing Committee of the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation for the revision and updating of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, presented to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, as well as the 2011 study on the extent of implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules by African countries, conducted by the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Taking note with appreciation of the development by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of the handbook for prison leaders, the handbook on the international transfer of sentenced persons, the handbook on strategies to reduce prison overcrowding (in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross) and the handbook on the prevention of recidivism and the social reintegration of offenders,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the replies of Member States to the request to exchange information on best practices and on the revision of existing United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners;

2. *Takes note* of the work done by the high-level expert group meeting held in Santo Domingo from 3 to 5 August 2011 and the expert group meeting held in Vienna on 6 and 7 October 2011;

3. *Acknowledges* the work done by the open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which drew on the outcome of the two expert group meetings mentioned above;

4. *Recognizes* that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,[58] adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1955 and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 663 C (XXIV) of 31 July 1957 and extended by the Council by its resolution 2076 (LXII) of 13 May 1977, have stood the test of time and that they remain the universally acknowledged minimum standards for the detention of prisoners;

5. *Also recognizes* that some areas of the Standard Minimum Rules could be reviewed so that the Rules reflect the latest advances in correctional science and good practices, provided that any changes to the Rules would not lower any existing standards;

6. *Takes cognizance* of the recommendations of the Expert Group,[66] and notes that the Expert Group identified the following preliminary areas for possible consideration:

(*a*) Respect for prisoners' inherent dignity and value as human beings;

(*b*) Medical and health services;

(*c*) Disciplinary action and punishment, including the role of medical staff, solitary confinement and reduction of diet;

(*d*) Investigation of all deaths in custody, as well as any signs or allegations of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners;

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[62] General Assembly resolution 43/173, annex.

[63] General Assembly resolution 45/111, annex.

[64] General Assembly resolution 45/113, annex.

[65] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

[66] See E/CN.15/2012/18; the recommendations should be considered in the context of the deliberations of the meeting of the Expert Group.

(*e*) Protection and special needs of vulnerable groups deprived of their liberty, taking into consideration countries in difficult circumstances;

(*f*) The right of access to legal representation;

(*g*) Complaints and independent inspection;

(*h*) The replacement of outdated terminology;

(*i*) Training of relevant staff to implement the Standard Minimum Rules;

7. *Underscores* that the requirements and needs of prisoners with disabilities should be duly considered, as applicable, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[67]

8. *Authorizes* the Expert Group to continue its work, within its mandate, with a view to reporting on its progress to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the required services and support are provided;

9. *Invites* Member States to actively participate in the next meeting of the Expert Group and to have a report prepared summarizing discussions and recommendations, including comments and concerns expressed by Government experts and other participants;

10. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Argentina for its readiness to host the next meeting of the Expert Group;

11. *Takes note* of the work accomplished for the preparation of the conference room paper containing notes and comments on the Standard Minimum Rules, and recommends its early translation into all other official languages of the United Nations, as well as its wide dissemination;

12. *Encourages* Member States to promote the implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);[65]

13. *Recommends* that Member States endeavour to reduce overcrowding and pretrial detention, where appropriate, and promote increased access to justice and legal defence mechanisms, reinforcing alternatives to imprisonment, which may include, inter alia, fines, community service, restorative justice and electronic monitoring, as well as supporting rehabilitation and reintegration programmes;

14. *Encourages* Member States to continue exchanging good practices, such as those regarding conflict resolution in detention facilities, including in the area of technical assistance, as well as identifying challenges faced in implementing the Standard Minimum Rules and sharing their experiences in dealing with those challenges, and to provide the relevant information to their experts participating in the Expert Group;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to promote the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice by, inter alia, providing advisory services and technical assistance to Member States on request, including assistance in criminal justice and law reform, and in the organization of training for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel and support in the administration and management of penal and penitentiary systems, thus contributing to the upgrading of their efficiency and capabilities;

16. *Reaffirms* the important role of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in contributing to the dissemination, promotion and practical application of the Standard Minimum Rules, in accordance with the procedures for the effective implementation of the Rules;[68]

17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

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[67] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[68] Resolution 1984/47, annex.

2012/14. Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/102 of 9 December 2011, entitled "The rule of law at the national and international levels", in which it reaffirmed its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world, and reiterated its determination to foster strict respect for them and to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world,

Stressing the importance of a well-functioning, efficient, effective and humane criminal justice system as the basis for a successful strategy against transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of trafficking,

Greatly concerned by the negative impact of organized crime on human rights, the rule of law, security and development, as well as by the sophistication, diversity and transnational aspects of organized crime and its links with other criminal and, in some cases, terrorist activities,

Recognizing the importance of the rule of law to all areas of engagement within the United Nations system, and noting with appreciation the progress made in ensuring coherence and coordination of activities to support the rule of law, in cooperation with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, while recognizing the different mandates of different United Nations entities,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 2004/25 of 21 July 2004, 2005/21 of 22 July 2005 and 2006/25 of 27 July 2006 on strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, as well as the assistance activities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in that area, including in post-conflict reconstruction, and aware of the leading role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, among other entities, in providing assistance to countries in post-conflict situations,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2009/23 of 30 July 2009, entitled "Support for the development and implementation of the regional programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime", and 2010/20 of 22 July 2010, entitled "Support for the development and implementation of an integrated approach to programme development at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime",

Recalling further the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,[69] in which Member States recognized the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law and that long-term, sustainable economic and social development and the establishment of a functioning, efficient, effective and humane criminal justice system have a positive influence on each other,

Bearing in mind that the rule of law will include, inter alia, fostering respect for the rule of law culture and legislative, executive and judicial institutions needed to make and administer effective laws and trust and confidence that law-making will be responsive to the concerns and needs of the population and that the administration of law will be just, efficient and transparent,

Convinced of the negative impact of corruption, which erodes public confidence, legitimacy and transparency and impedes the making of fair and effective laws, as well as their administration, enforcement and adjudication,

[69] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

Stressing the importance of the rule of law, both nationally and internationally, as an essential element in addressing and preventing organized crime and corruption,

Recognizing the value of the efforts being made throughout the United Nations system to strengthen activities aimed at promoting the rule of law, including the establishment of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General,

Noting with appreciation the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability for the purpose of developing within the United Nations system an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations,

Acknowledging that the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice are important tools for establishing fair and effective criminal justice systems enshrined in the rule of law and that their use and application in the provision of technical assistance should be enhanced, as appropriate,

1. *Calls upon* relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue cooperating and coordinating their activities, within their respective mandates, to promote a more integrated approach to the provision of assistance for building capacity in the area of the rule of law and criminal justice reform and to further explore joint projects in that area;

2. *Also calls upon* relevant entities of the United Nations system to systematically take into account the various aspects of the rule of law in their programmes, projects and other activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice and to include in them all segments of the population, particularly women;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice;

4. *Also reaffirms* the importance of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the fulfilment of its mandate on crime prevention and criminal justice, to provide to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical assistance, advisory services and other forms of assistance and to coordinate with and complement the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices, taking into account their respective mandates;

5. *Strongly encourages* all States to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation, in accordance with their domestic legislation, to counter the challenges posed by transnational organized crime and drug trafficking;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to incorporate relevant elements of the rule of law into its programmes and projects pertaining to crime prevention and criminal justice, in coordination, as appropriate, with other relevant United Nations entities, inter alia, the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

7. *Also encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance and advisory services to Member States, upon request, in support of criminal justice reform and to incorporate the rule of law into such assistance, as appropriate, including within the framework of peacebuilding, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction, and to promote relevant international legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[70] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[71] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[72] as well as relevant international anti-terrorism instruments, as appropriate, also drawing on the existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice;

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[70] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[71] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[72] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

8. *Welcomes* the progress made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate and in close consultation with Member States and regional entities, in developing and implementing an integrated programme approach to technical assistance, comprising thematic and regional programmes for its delivery;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing tools and training material on crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on international standards and norms;

10. *Reiterates* its recommendation, made in its resolution 66/181 of 19 December 2011, that Member States, as appropriate to their national contexts, adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to crime prevention and criminal justice reform, based on baseline assessments and data collection and focusing on all sectors of the justice system, and develop crime prevention policies, strategies and programmes, and its request in that resolution to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States for that purpose;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance, within its mandate, to Member States, upon request, in relation to the rule of law and long-term sustainable criminal justice reform;

12. *Urges* Member States providing development assistance to countries emerging from conflict to increase, where relevant, their bilateral assistance in crime prevention and criminal justice to those countries, and recommends that such assistance could, upon request, include elements relating to the rule of law;

13. *Invites* the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to include in their work programmes the issue of the rule of law, particularly aspects pertaining to crime prevention and criminal justice, with a view to understanding whether there are links between transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption, and, if so, to establish the degree and nature of those links as well as the challenges they may pose to the rule of law, and to develop appropriate training material;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/15. United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[73] which enshrines the key principles of equality before the law and the presumption of innocence, as well as the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, along with all the guarantees necessary for the defence of anyone charged with a penal offence, other minimum guarantees and the entitlement to be tried without undue delay,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[74] in particular article 14 thereof, which states that everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be entitled to be tried in his or her presence and to defend himself or herself in person or through legal assistance of his or her own choosing or assigned to

[73] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[74] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

him or her where the interests of justice so require, in a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law,

Bearing in mind the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,[75] approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 663 C (XXIV) of 31 July 1957 and extended by the Council by its resolution 2076 (LXII) of 13 May 1977, according to which an untried prisoner, for the purposes of his or her defence, shall be allowed to receive visits from his or her legal adviser,

Bearing in mind also the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment,[76] principle 11 of which states that a detained person shall have the right to defend himself or herself or to be assisted by counsel as prescribed by law,

Bearing in mind further the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers,[77] in particular principle 6 thereof, which states that any persons who do not have a lawyer shall, in all cases in which the interests of justice so require, be entitled to have a lawyer of experience and competence commensurate with the nature of the offence assigned to them in order to provide effective legal assistance, without payment by them if they lack sufficient means to pay for such services,

Recalling the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[78] especially paragraph 18 thereof, in which Member States are called upon to take steps, in accordance with their domestic laws, to promote access to justice, to consider the provision of legal aid to those who need it and to enable the effective assertion of their rights in the criminal justice system,

Recalling also the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,[79] especially paragraph 52 thereof, in which it is recommended that Member States endeavour to reduce pretrial detention, where appropriate, and promote increased access to justice and legal defence mechanisms,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/24 of 26 July 2007 on international cooperation for the improvement of access to legal aid in criminal justice systems, particularly in Africa,

Recognizing that legal aid is an essential element of a fair, humane and efficient criminal justice system that is based on the rule of law and that it is a foundation for the enjoyment of other rights, including the right to a fair trial, as a precondition to exercising such rights and an important safeguard that ensures fundamental fairness and public trust in the criminal justice process,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, annexed to the present resolution, can be applied by Member States, taking into account the great variety of legal systems and socioeconomic conditions in the world,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on strengthening access to legal aid in criminal justice systems, at its meeting held in Vienna from 16 to 18 November 2011, to develop a set of principles and guidelines on access to legal aid in criminal justice systems;

2. *Adopts* the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, annexed to the present resolution, as a useful framework to guide Member States on the principles on which a legal aid system in criminal justice should be based, taking into account the content of the present resolution and the fact that all elements of the annex will be applied in accordance with national legislation;

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[75] *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, Volume I (First Part), *Universal Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XIV.4 (Vol. I, Part 1)), sect. J, No. 34.

[76] General Assembly resolution 43/173, annex.

[77] *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August–7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B.3, annex.

[78] General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

[79] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

3. *Invites* Member States, consistent with their national legislation, to adopt and strengthen measures to ensure that effective legal aid is provided, in accordance with the spirit of the Principles and Guidelines, bearing in mind the diversity of criminal justice systems among different countries and regions around the world and the fact that legal aid is developed in accordance with the overall balance of the criminal justice system, as well as the circumstances of countries and regions;

4. *Encourages* Member States to consider, where appropriate, the provision of legal aid and to provide such aid to the maximum extent possible;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to draw upon the Principles and Guidelines, as appropriate, and in accordance with national law, in undertaking national efforts and measures to strengthen access to legal aid in criminal justice systems;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to continue to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in the area of criminal justice reform, including restorative justice, alternatives to imprisonment and the development of integrated plans for the provision of legal aid;

7. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to make the Principles and Guidelines widely available, including through the development of relevant tools such as handbooks and training manuals;

8. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex

United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems

[For the text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/67/49), vol. I, sect. V, resolution 67/187, annex.]

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/16. Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/172 of 19 December 2011, entitled "Protection of migrants",

Recognizing that violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families poses a serious challenge to Member States and requires multilateral cooperation among all countries for its eradication,

Recognizing also that the challenges include violence perpetrated by organized criminal groups, including violence motivated by racism,

Deeply concerned about acts of intolerance, discrimination and violence and credible threats of violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families,

Recognizing that impediments to accessing employment, vocational training, housing, schooling, health services and social services, as well as other services that, in accordance with national legislation, are intended for use by the public, contribute to the vulnerability of migrants,

Noting that the factors that drive people to seek to cross international borders are many and varied and that, while the majority may be motivated by economic factors, in some cases migrants may include vulnerable groups,

Aware that, as criminals take advantage of migratory flows and attempt to circumvent border controls, migrants become more vulnerable to, inter alia, kidnapping, extortion, forced labour, sexual exploitation, physical assault, debt servitude and abandonment,

Concerned about the large numbers of migrants, especially women and children, who attempt to cross international borders without appropriate travel documents, which renders them highly vulnerable, and recognizing the obligation of Member States to treat migrants humanely, with full protection of their rights, regardless of their immigration status,

Bearing in mind the need for a focused and consistent criminal justice approach to crimes committed against migrants, in particular women and children, as a group that is especially vulnerable to crime and abuse,

Recognizing the importance of the principle of access to justice, and convinced that, without access to justice, basic human rights cannot be fully realized,

Reaffirming the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[80] in which it is stated that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, and that no one should be held in slavery or servitude or be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, without distinction of any kind,

Reaffirming also that effective action to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air requires a comprehensive international approach,

Noting the obligations of Member States under international law, as applicable, to prevent crimes against migrants, to investigate such crimes and to punish perpetrators, and bearing in mind that not doing so impairs the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims of such crimes,

Stressing the need for additional cooperation among Member States and between Member States and private sector entities to counter transnational organized crime,

Stressing also the need to fully implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[81] the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[82] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[83] and to take appropriate measures to afford migrants effective protection against the types of violence that may be inflicted upon them, including protection from potential retaliation or intimidation for testifying as witnesses in criminal proceedings,

Recalling its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, entitled "United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons", and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 20/3 of 15 April 2011, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons",[84] stressing the need for full and effective implementation of the Plan of Action, and expressing the view that it will, inter alia, enhance cooperation and better coordination of efforts to fight trafficking in persons and for full implementation of the Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol,

Reaffirming that crimes against migrants, including trafficking in persons, continue to pose a serious challenge and require a concerted international assessment and response and genuine multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for their eradication,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to highlight the vulnerability of smuggled migrants to violence, including the study entitled "Smuggling of migrants: a

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[80] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[81] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[82] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

[83] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[84] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 10* (E/2011/30), chap. I, sect. D.

global review and annotated bibliography of recent publications", first published in 2010, and the discussion guide for the thematic discussion on violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families,[85]

Welcoming the renewed commitment made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[86] to take measures to protect the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate acts of racism and xenophobia and to promote greater harmony and tolerance,

Recognizing the increasing need for more effective international information-sharing, law enforcement cooperation and mutual legal assistance,

Determined to promote effective law enforcement and related measures to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families,

1. *Strongly condemns* the continuing incidence of criminal acts against migrants, migrant workers and their families in all regions of the world, including criminal acts of violence motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

2. *Requests* Member States to ensure the humane treatment of all migrants, regardless of their immigration status, especially women and children, with full protection of their rights, and to take all appropriate measures with due regard for the safety and dignity of the person;

3. *Urges* Member States to adopt measures for preventing and addressing effectively cases of violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families, and to ensure that the victims of such crimes receive humane and respectful treatment from Member States, regardless of their immigration status;

4. *Encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact national legislation and take other appropriate measures to combat international smuggling of migrants, including legislative, judicial, regulatory and administrative measures, recognizing that crimes against migrants may endanger the lives of migrants or make them vulnerable to trafficking, kidnapping or other crimes and abuse by organized criminal groups, and to strengthen international cooperation to combat such crimes;

5. *Also encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact national legislation and to take other appropriate measures to combat criminal acts of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including steps to reduce the vulnerability of migrants to crime and to increase their engagement with host societies, consistent with national law;

6. *Reiterates its call* for those Member States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[87] and calls upon States parties to fully implement those treaties;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to institute measures, as appropriate, to strengthen the entire criminal justice process and to vigorously investigate and prosecute crimes against migrants, including trafficking in persons and other serious offences, especially crimes constituting violations of the human rights of migrants, giving special attention to assisting and protecting victims, in particular women and children;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable situations, and in that regard expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized criminal entities and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law;

9. *Urges* Member States to fully use, where pertinent, international cooperation in their investigations and prosecution of crimes involving violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families, and encourages States parties to the Convention and the relevant Protocols thereto to avail themselves of the

[85] E/CN.15/2012/5.

[86] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[87] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

international cooperation framework of those instruments and all others to ensure that they have an adequate legal framework to allow for extradition, mutual legal assistance and international cooperation in relation to such crimes;

10. *Also urges* Member States to provide specialized training, as appropriate, for law enforcement, border control, immigration and other concerned officials to better equip them to identify and deal with issues related to violence against migrants, including in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and civil society;

11. *Invites* Member States to adopt concrete measures to prevent violence against migrants while in transit, to train public officials at ports of entry and in border areas to treat migrants and their families respectfully and in accordance with the law, and to prosecute, in conformity with applicable national and international law, violations of the rights of migrants and their families during such transit;

12. *Urges* Member States to continue exploring the link between migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting migrants from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse;

13. *Encourages* Member States to make available information about the potential risks of migration and the rights and duties of persons who migrate, educating them about their host societies, so as to enable migrants to make informed decisions and to reduce the likelihood that they will be victims of crime;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to take measures to ensure that victims of crime, including migrants, migrant workers and their families, have access to the justice system for violations of their rights, irrespective of their immigration status;

15. *Encourages* Member States to further strengthen their cooperation in protecting witnesses in cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

16. *Invites* Member States to take immediate steps to incorporate into national criminal justice strategies measures to prevent, prosecute and punish crimes involving violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families;

17. *Welcomes* the active role played by international and non-governmental organizations in combating violence against migrants;

18. *Urges* Member States to cooperate in international, regional and bilateral forums on the protection of migrants and on humane migration management.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/17. Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[83] should be held,

[83] General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex.

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Bearing in mind the consultative nature of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, and their role as a forum for promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments to stay fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, and invited its intergovernmental bodies to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, in which it endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting, held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006,[89]

Recalling further its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, in which it endorsed the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, as adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider at its twentieth session options to improve the efficiency of the process involved in the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, and welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Qatar to act as host to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 2015,

Recalling its resolution 66/179 of 19 December 2011, in which it requested the Commission to approve at its twenty-first session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress, and recommended that the outcome of future crime congresses be strengthened by limiting the number of their agenda items and workshops,

Taking note of the development goals and national commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[90]

Emphasizing the importance of integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address, inter alia, social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Thirteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[91]

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their

[89] See E/CN.15/2007/6, chap. IV.

[90] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[91] E/CN.15/2012/21 and Corr.1.

Development in a Changing World[92] and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein, taking into account the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of their respective States;

2. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

3. *Decides* that the duration of the Thirteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations;

4. *Also decides* that the main theme of the Thirteenth Congress shall be "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation";

5. *Further decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress shall include a high-level segment in which States are invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, and that representatives will be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress;

6. *Decides* that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, and that the declaration shall contain recommendations reflecting the deliberations of the high-level segment, the discussion of agenda items and the workshops;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Thirteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress;

8. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Thirteenth Congress, finalized by the Commission at its twenty-first session:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development.
4. International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime.
5. Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime.[93]
6. National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress;

9. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress:

(*a*) Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders;

[92] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

[93] This agenda item invites discussion on various evolving forms of transnational crime, including those reflected in General Assembly resolution 66/181 of 19 December 2011, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity".

(*b*) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims;

(*c*) Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation;

(*d*) Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and for the Congress in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2014, and invites Member States to be actively involved in that process;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of the regional preparatory meetings and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Thirteenth Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States;

12. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress;

13. *Invites* Member States to be represented at the Thirteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate actively in the high-level segment;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to play an active role in the Thirteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and encourages Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations;

17. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees;

18. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress;

19. *Requests* the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-second session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission at its twenty-second session.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/18. Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/232 of 21 December 2010, in which the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was requested to strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information to enhance knowledge on crime trends and support Member States in designing appropriate responses in specific areas of crime, in particular in their transnational dimension,

Recalling also the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, in which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was invited to consider strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to collect, analyse and disseminate accurate, reliable and comparable data on world crime and victimization trends and patterns and Member States were called upon to support the gathering and analysis of information and to consider designating focal points and provide information when requested to do so by the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2009/25 of 30 July 2009 on improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data to enhance knowledge on trends in specific areas of crime,

Recalling Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 19/2 of 21 May 2010 on strengthening the collection, analysis and reporting of comparable crime-related data,[94] in which Member States were invited to strengthen their efforts to review and improve data-collection tools in order to enhance knowledge on world crime trends and patterns,

Considering that the countries participating in the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, from 16 to 18 November 2011, expressed their satisfaction at the creation of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victimization, Public Security and Justice, established jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, and that the Statistical Conference requested the Centre, subject to the availability of resources, to support the countries of the region in improving the compilation, dissemination and analysis of information on crime and in developing standards for measuring the scale of crimes most affecting the region,

Recognizing that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the intergovernmental body mandated to address issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice, while the Statistical Commission is responsible for promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability, as well as the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally, as reaffirmed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971,

Emphasizing that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission can complement and support each other's efforts in the field of statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Recognizing the importance of information and statistics in developing and supporting public policies at the national, regional and global levels,

[94] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 10* (E/2010/30), chap. I, sect. D.

Reaffirming that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the focal point within the United Nations system for statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Acknowledging the need to ensure coordination in the collection and dissemination of statistics on crime and criminal justice among the various national institutions,

Noting the need, expressed by the Statistical Commission in its decision 43/102 of 2 March 2012,[95] for national statistical offices to give sufficient consideration to the challenges of producing and disseminating statistics on crime within the national context and to work with partners in the criminal justice system,

Reaffirming that national victimization surveys, which are often conducted by national statistical offices,[96] are important tools for the collection of information on crime and criminal justice, and acknowledging that it would be desirable to have technical and methodological tools for conducting such surveys so as to ensure the comparability of results obtained in different countries,

Bearing in mind the gaps still existing in statistical information on crime and criminal justice, particularly in relation to emerging forms of crime, and the challenges posed by the limited comparability of statistical data obtained in different countries,

Underscoring the importance of technical assistance and of building the capacity of Member States to collect, analyse and disseminate accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice,

Taking note of the tools and publications produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime that provide technical guidance, methodologies and standards for the collection of data and the preparation of evidence-based analyses on specific forms of crime, such as victimization, crime trend and homicide surveys,

1. *Welcomes* the deliberations of the Statistical Commission at its forty-third session, held from 28 February to 2 March 2012, and the request made by the Commission to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico to prepare a joint report, to be considered by the Commission at its forty-fourth session, which should include:

(*a*) A road map of the steps needed to develop statistics on crime;

(*b*) An assessment of the feasibility of developing an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes;

(*c*) The way in which the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice could cooperate with regard to the development of statistics on crime;[95]

2. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make available to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session the report to be prepared by the Office in cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for consideration by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session;

3. *Invites* Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with relevant information that could be taken into consideration in the preparation of the aforementioned report;

4. *Also invites* Member States to encourage productive dialogue among national authorities responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics on crime and criminal justice, including national statistical offices, so as to enhance coordination at the national level and to ensure the use of common standards;

5. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to appoint a national focal point for the submission of data on crime and criminal justice to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, through the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, in order to support the Office in ensuring that the national data disseminated are consistent over time and meet the highest standards of quality;

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[95] Ibid., *2012, Supplement No. 4* (E/2012/24), chap. I, sect. B.

[96] In statistical systems that do not have a single national statistical office, this refers to the statistical agency responsible for collecting statistics on crime and justice matters.

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victimization, Public Security and Justice, developed jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, and encourages both bodies to support countries, through the Centre and upon request, in improving their statistical information on crime and criminal justice;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing technical and methodological tools to assist countries in producing and disseminating accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice, and to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, to Member States in order to enhance their capacity to collect, analyse and report data on crime and criminal justice;

8. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its mandated activities to regularly collect and disseminate statistics on crime and criminal justice and to provide trend analyses and studies based on the information provided by Member States;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/19. Strengthening international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that transnational organized crime has diversified and represents a threat to health and safety, security, good governance and the sustainable development of States,

Emphasizing that all States have a shared responsibility to take steps to counter transnational organized crime, including through international cooperation and in cooperation with relevant entities such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/181 of 19 December 2011, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity", in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[97] as the main tools of the international community to fight transnational organized crime, drew attention to emerging policy issues such as piracy, cybercrime, abuse and exploitation of children, trafficking in cultural property, illicit financial flows and trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and invited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to explore, within its mandate, ways and means of addressing those issues,

Stressing the need for promoting universal adherence to and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption[98] and other relevant international instruments, as well as the importance of additional cooperation between Member States and private sector entities, as appropriate, to counter transnational organized crime, as identified in various reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Recalling Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 19/1 of 21 May 2010, entitled "Strengthening public-private partnerships to counter crime in all its forms and manifestations",[99] and noting the importance of further developing such partnerships, including in or in relation to specific sectors, for example, the tourism sector, affected by increased criminal and terrorist threats and challenges,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/180 of 19 December 2011, entitled "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking", in which the Assembly urged Member States and relevant institutions to reinforce and fully implement mechanisms to

[97] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.
[98] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.
[99] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 10* (E/2010/30), chap. I, sect. D.

strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences, such as the theft, looting, damage, removal, pillage and destruction of cultural property, and to facilitate the recovery and return of stolen cultural property,

Recalling further the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, adopted by the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[100] in which the Commission was invited to consider convening an open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime and responses to it by Member States, the international community and the private sector, including the exchange of information on national legislation, best practices, technical assistance and international cooperation, with a view to examining options to strengthen existing and to propose new national and international legal or other responses to cybercrime,

Recalling Commission resolution 19/2 of 21 May 2010, entitled "Strengthening the collection, analysis and reporting of comparable crime-related data",[99] in which the Commission, inter alia, requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with Member States, to strengthen the collection, analysis and reporting of accurate, reliable and comparable data on world crime trends and patterns, and invited Member States to strengthen their efforts to review and improve data-collection tools in order to enhance knowledge on those trends and patterns, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/18 of 26 July 2012, entitled "Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development",

Taking note of the commitment made by Heads of State and Government in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[101] to intensify their efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking in and smuggling of human beings and money-laundering, to take concerted action against international terrorism and to redouble their efforts to implement their commitment to counter the world drug problem, and stressing the need to integrate crime prevention and criminal justice strategies and measures into broader United Nations goals,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, entitled "United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons", Assembly resolution 65/232 of 21 December 2010, entitled "Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity" and Commission resolution 20/3 of 15 April 2011, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons",[102] stressing the need for full and effective implementation of the Plan of Action, and expressing the view that the Plan of Action will, inter alia, enhance cooperation and better coordination of efforts in fighting trafficking in persons and in the full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[103] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[104]

Underscoring the growing involvement of organized criminal groups at all stages of both licit and illicit activities that can generate huge profits, including the production and distribution of falsified and fraudulent products,

Recalling Commission resolution 20/6 of 15 April 2011, entitled "Countering fraudulent medicines, in particular their trafficking",[102] in which the Commission urged Member States to prevent trafficking in fraudulent medicines by introducing legislation, as appropriate, covering, in particular, all offences related to fraudulent medicines, such as money-laundering, corruption and smuggling, as well as the confiscation and disposal of criminal assets, extradition and mutual legal assistance, to ensure that no stage in the supply chain of fraudulent medicines is overlooked, and in this regard noting the holding of the conference on countering the spread of counterfeit medical products, hosted by the Government of the Russian Federation in Moscow from 26 to 28 October 2011,

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[100] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

[101] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[102] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 10* (E/2011/30), chap. I, sect. D.

[103] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[104] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

Recalling also Commission decision 19/1 of 21 May 2010, entitled "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to counterfeiting and piracy",[99]

Mindful of the links that may exist, in some cases, between transnational organized crime and terrorism, as well as the need for further research and cooperation to address that issue,

Recognizing the involvement of transnational criminal organizations in all aspects of crimes that have a significant impact on the environment,

Noting with appreciation the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability, for the purpose of developing within the United Nations system an effective and comprehensive approach to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and reaffirming the crucial role of Member States as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations,

Welcoming the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Tourism Organization,

1. *Reiterates its call upon* those Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[97] and encourages States parties to fully implement those legal instruments;

2. *Recalls* resolution 5/5 of 22 October 2010 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[105] in which the Conference decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider and explore options for the establishment of a mechanism or mechanisms to assist the Conference in the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, notes with appreciation the progress made by the working group in finalizing its recommendations to the Conference, and expresses the hope that the Conference, at its sixth session, will complete the task of establishing the review mechanism and launching it as soon as possible, bearing in mind the urgent need to improve the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as the Co-Chair of the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability, to keep Member States informed on the progress of the work of the task force;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to request Member States and interested international organizations, including regional organizations, to submit to the Office their views on ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation in countering criminal and terrorist threats and challenges to the tourism sector, including by means of public-private partnerships, and requests the Office to report on those submissions to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-second session;

5. *Invites* Member States, within the framework of their national legal systems and international obligations, to consider reviewing their legal and regulatory arrangements in order to provide for the criminalization of the production and distribution of falsified and fraudulent products linked to organized crime;

6. *Also invites* Member States to consider, where appropriate, applying the relevant provisions of the Convention to the activities of transnational organized criminal groups, including those involving the illicit manufacture, production and distribution of falsified and fraudulent products, especially in relation to money-laundering, corruption and smuggling, as well as seizing and confiscating the related criminal assets and cooperating by means of extradition and mutual legal assistance as well as coordinated law enforcement actions, and invites Member States also to consider enhancing their cross-border cooperation in this area, including with a view to breaking the related criminal distribution chain;

7. *Encourages* Member States to provide adequate mechanisms to ensure proper safety and control of the licit distribution chain, with the involvement and close cooperation of the private sector, where appropriate;

8. *Urges* Member States to consider, among other effective measures, within the framework of their national legal systems, criminalizing activities related to all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and

[105] See CTOC/COP/2010/17, chap. I, sect. A.

related offences by using a broad definition that can be applied to all stolen, looted, unlawfully excavated and illicitly exported or imported cultural property, and to apply the relevant provisions of the Convention to foster international cooperation in order to address such criminal activities, including by applying judicial and law enforcement cooperation mechanisms at their disposal;

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking,[106] including the recommendations contained therein, and looks forward to the continued work of the expert group established by the Economic and Social Council to address crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property;

10. *Urges* Member States to consider, among other effective measures, in accordance with their national legal systems, addressing different forms and manifestations of transnational organized crime that have a significant impact on the environment, including trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora;

11. *Reiterates the invitation* to Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United Nations, to implement Commission resolution 20/7 of 15 April 2011,[102] including for the convening of the second session of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue, in consultation with Member States and relevant regional and international organizations, developing global analyses of the threats and modalities of transnational organized crime, studying new forms and dimensions of transnational organized crime and analysing new and emerging challenges, in order to support evidence-based policy guidance;

13. *Invites* the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and other institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue to conduct, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with other competent international entities, research on different forms of transnational organized crime;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts towards enhancing the analytical contributions of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and other institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, as well as their transparency to Member States, including by means of strengthening their working links with the Commission;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue developing, in consultation with Member States and relevant regional and international organizations, technical assistance tools that may be used to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption[98] and other relevant United Nations instruments;

16. *Invites* States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its twenty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/20. Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 2010/259 of 23 July 2010, in which it invited the Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics to further its work in this field,

[106] E/CN.15/2012/15.

Recalling also its decision 2011/242 of 26 July 2011, by which it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on genetic privacy and non-discrimination,[107]

1. *Recognizes* the diversity of existing initiatives undertaken by various organizations within and outside the United Nations system and geared to safeguarding human rights from the potential misuse of genetic information for discriminatory purposes;

2. *Invites* the Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics to continue to address regularly the issue of genetic privacy and non-discrimination in order to identify areas for concerted or joint efforts, as well as major gaps and constraints that need to be addressed for enhanced cooperation in this field;

3. *Decides* to delete from its agenda the sub-item entitled "Genetic privacy and non-discrimination".

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/21. Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009 and 2010/28 of 23 July 2010 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011 and 2011/268 of 28 July 2011,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti[108] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Notes* the political, economic and rule of law progress made since the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010, and welcomes the support provided by the international community to this process;

3. *Commends* the ongoing implementation of the Strategic Development Plan for Haiti by the Haitian authorities, and looks forward to continued support from donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, in connection with the implementation of the Plan;

4. *Recognizes* the need for effective and continued coordination between the Government of Haiti and donors, as well as for a standing consultation mechanism with the main non-governmental organizations active in Haiti;

5. *Calls upon* donors to fulfil their pledges made at the International Donors' Conference entitled "Towards a New Future for Haiti", held in New York on 31 March 2010, and to respond to the call to fund the consolidated humanitarian appeal for 2012 as well as the activities of the World Food Programme in Haiti;

6. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Advisory Group until the substantive session of 2013 of the Economic and Social Council, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building on the Strategic Development Plan for Haiti and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

7. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

8. *Requests* the Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and

[107] E/2011/108.
[108] E/2012/87.

programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the Inter-American Development Bank, and other major stakeholders;

9. *Also requests* the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2013.

47th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/22. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[109] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[110]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[111]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/40 of 28 July 2011,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

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[109] A/67/64.

[110] E/2012/47 and Corr.1.

[111] See E/2012/SR.44.

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/84 of 9 December 2011, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council,[110] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[109]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Recalls* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its updated online version, and requests that they be disseminated as widely as possible;

13. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

14. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

15. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

16. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 2012 of the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 16 May 1998 of its resolution 574 (XXVII),[112] in which the Commission called for the mechanisms necessary for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly convened to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

19. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chair of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2013;

21. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

47th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

[112] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G

2012/23. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/225 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling also its resolution 2011/41 of 28 July 2011,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[113] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[114] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[114] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[115] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Stressing the importance of the revival and acceleration of serious and credible negotiations within the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004 and 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[116] and the Quartet road map,[117] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Commending, in that regard, the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

Gravely concerned, in that regard, about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions,

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement by illegal armed Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including historic and religious sites, and agricultural lands,

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[113] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[114] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[115] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[116] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[117] S/2003/529, annex.

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by the construction by Israel of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the right to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[118] and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of the wall, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights, which have caused the further displacement of the Palestinian population in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, including through the accelerated construction of settlements, the construction of the wall, the confiscation of land and the continued imposition of checkpoints, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about Israeli military operations and the continuing Israeli policy of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian personnel and food, medical, fuel, construction material and other essential supplies, via the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestinian refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Taking note of recent developments regarding the situation of access to the Gaza Strip, although grave hardships continue to prevail as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the heavy casualties among civilians, including hundreds of children and women, the internal displacement of thousands of civilians and widespread damage to homes, vital civilian infrastructure, hospitals, schools, food supply installations, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, and several United Nations facilities in the Gaza Strip, which have a grave impact on the provision of vital health and social services to Palestinian women and their families and on their socioeconomic living conditions, all caused by the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread

[118] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, lack of proper medical care and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture, while taking note of the recent agreement reached on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Authority, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions and promote good governance, emphasizing the need to preserve the Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure, commending in that regard the implementation of the 2009 plan of the Palestinian Authority, entitled "Palestine: Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State", for building the institutions of an independent Palestinian State within a 24-month period and the significant achievements that have been brought about, as confirmed by international institutions, including the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in their reports to the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians held on 13 April 2011, and acknowledging the development plan of the Palestinian Authority for the period 2011–2013,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, completed at the end of August 2011, as well as the assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Stressing the importance of national unity among the Palestinian people, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closures system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is critical in the Gaza Strip, and calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;[119]

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and governmental institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates the call* for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[113]

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including, in particular, in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

12. *Also reaffirms* that the ongoing construction by Israel of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice rendered on 9 July 2004[118] and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

13. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaitra entrance;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

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[119] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

15. *Reiterates* the importance of the revival and accelerated advancement of negotiations of the peace process on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004) and 1850 (2008), the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[116] and the Quartet road map,[117] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

17. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its substantive session of 2013.

47th plenary meeting
26 July 2012

2012/24. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[120] and recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005, 2006/36 of 27 July 2006, 2007/33 of 27 July 2007, 2008/34 of 25 July 2008, 2009/12 of 28 July 2009, 2010/29 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/6 of 14 July 2011,

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[121] the 2005 World Summit,[122] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[123] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[124] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[125]

Recalling the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

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[120] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

[121] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[122] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[123] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[124] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[125] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[126] and the recommendations contained therein, and calls for further and continued efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations in accordance with all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Stresses* that the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality constitutes a key forum for achieving more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas and practical experiences on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and looks forward to the continued implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

3. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue mainstreaming the issue of gender in accordance with previous Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2008/34, and General Assembly resolution 64/289, including mainstreaming a gender perspective into all operational mechanisms, inter alia, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development frameworks, ensuring that managers provide leadership and support, within the United Nations system, to advance gender mainstreaming, strengthening monitoring, reporting and evaluation so as to allow system-wide assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, and using existing training resources, including institutions and infrastructure, to assist in the development and application of unified training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming and to promote the collection, analysis and use of accurate, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by sex and age, during programme development and the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in order to assess progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Also requests* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States, with their agreement and consent, in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, by providing support and capacity development to national machineries for the advancement of women;

5. *Welcomes* the development of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, under the leadership of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and its adoption by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on 13 April 2012, as an accountability framework to be fully implemented by the United Nations system, and calls upon the United Nations system to actively engage in its roll-out;

6. *Calls upon* UN-Women, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/289:

(*a*) To continue to fully undertake its role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to ensure that any new mandates shall be subject to approval by intergovernmental process;

(*b*) In the context of its work at the field level, to continue to operate as part of the resident coordinator system, within the United Nations country team, leading and coordinating the work of the country team on gender equality and the empowerment of women, under the overall leadership of the resident coordinator;

(*c*) On the basis of the principle of universality, to continue to provide, through its normative support functions and operational activities, guidance and technical support to all Member States, across all levels of development and in all regions, at their request, on gender equality, the empowerment and rights of women and gender mainstreaming;

(*d*) To continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work;

7. *Recognizes* that large gaps remain between policy and practice and that building United Nations staff capacities alone is not sufficient for the entire United Nations system to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming;

8. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective organizational mandates and in line with existing rules and regulations governing selection and

[126] E/2012/61.

recruitment processes in the relevant organizations, to continue working collaboratively to enhance gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, including by:

(*a*) Continuing to work to better align gender equality programming with national priorities, as requested by the Member State concerned, with the aim of integrating gender mainstreaming into policies, legislation and programmes;

(*b*) Promoting a facilitative and evolving environment for gender mainstreaming at the headquarters level and ensuring that entities within the United Nations system dedicate adequate financial and human resources to gender equality programming at the country level;

(*c*) Strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities among entities of the United Nations system through existing coordination mechanisms at the country level and in partnership, where appropriate, with other relevant entities and national partners;

(*d*) Ensuring that the various existing accountability mechanisms of the United Nations system provide for more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting on gender equality results and on the tracking of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure, including through the promotion of the use, where appropriate, of gender markers, and encouraging the use by United Nations country teams of gender accountability mechanisms to assist and improve their performance at the country level;

(*e*) Supporting UN-Women in its promotion of increased accountability for gender mainstreaming, including through the systematic use of monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including for United Nations country teams and for assessing individual staff performance;

(*f*) Securing technical expertise for gender equality in programme planning and implementation to ensure that gender dimensions are systematically addressed and, in this regard, drawing on the gender expertise available in the United Nations system, including in UN-Women, to assist in the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development programming frameworks;

(*g*) Providing ongoing capacity development in the area of gender mainstreaming for all United Nations staff and personnel at the country level, including resident coordinators and members of the United Nations country teams, particularly gender experts, to ensure that they are better able to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(*h*) Collecting, analysing, using and disseminating comparable data, disaggregated by sex and age, in a regular and systematic manner to guide country programming investments, to support the preparation of corporate and country-level documents, such as the strategic, programmatic and results-based frameworks, and to continue to refine their tools for measuring progress and impact;

(*i*) Ensuring progress, including through managerial and departmental accountability, towards achieving the goal of a 50/50 gender balance at all levels in the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system, with due regard to the representation of women from developing countries and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographical representation, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2013 a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including the promotion of accountability and progress made in the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

2012/25. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[127]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[128] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth

[127] E/CN.6/2012/6.

[128] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15–26 July 1985* (A/CONF.116/28/Rev.1), chap. I, sect. A.

World Conference on Women[129] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[130]

Recalling also its resolution 2011/18 of 26 July 2011 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[131] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[132] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[132] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[133] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights and arbitrary detention and imprisonment, as well as high rates of poverty and unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the dire humanitarian crisis and insecurity and instability on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including displacement and the confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access of pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned, in particular, about the critical socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the Israeli military operations and the imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration into the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

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[129] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[130] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[131] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[132] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[133] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, and commends the implementation of the August 2009 plan of the Palestinian Authority for building the institutions of an independent Palestinian State within a 24-month period and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by international institutions, including the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[134] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 1907,[135] the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[136] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[132] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. *Stresses* the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, to support both parties in resuming, advancing and accelerating the peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict[137] and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session;[138]

7. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[128] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[129] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[130]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those set out in his report,[127] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

2012/26. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[139] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[140] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in

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[134] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[135] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[136] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[137] S/2003/529, annex.

[138] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[139] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[140] Ibid., chap. II.

Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[141]

Recalling also its resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling the ministerial declaration adopted on 10 July 2012 at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012, on the theme "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",[142]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[143]

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment, made by the international community in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[141] to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action[140] and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action contained in the outcome document, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

3. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating the effects of such shocks;

4. *Reaffirms* that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in agriculture, manufacturing and services is essential if the least developed countries are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase their resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth and eradicate poverty, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. *Notes* the efforts made by the least developed countries towards full employment and decent work for all and expresses its concern that, despite considerable efforts, those countries are yet to generate a sufficient number of decent jobs for their growing working-age populations, including because of the structural constraints of their economies, and in this regard encourages further action by the least developed countries to strengthen productive capacities, as outlined in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and recalls the commitments made by the development partners in the Programme of Action to provide, inter alia, enhanced financial and technical support to the least developed countries to develop productive capacities, in order to support the efforts of the least developed countries to achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

6. *Stresses* the importance of undertaking policy measures on social protection in the least developed countries in order to achieve the goal of enhancing social protection systems to improve the resilience of all, including poor and disadvantaged groups, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and in this regard reiterates the commitments made by the least developed countries and their development partners in the Programme of Action;

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[141] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[142] E/HLS/2012/1.

[143] A/67/88-E/2012/75.

7. *Welcomes* the progress made by many least developed countries in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, and calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. *Also welcomes* the progress in mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

9. *Notes* that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, also notes that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to least developed countries, underlines the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to least developed countries;

10. *Welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results orientation;

11. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, (*a*) productive capacity, (*b*) agriculture, food security and rural development, (*c*) trade, (*d*) commodities, (*e*) human and social development, (*f*) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (*g*) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (*h*) good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

12. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

13. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

14. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

15. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

16. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by various entities of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Food Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action and integrate its relevant provisions into their programmes of work, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

18. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

19. *Notes* the work done by the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category;

20. *Recalls* the request made by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013, with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

21. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action;

22. *Reaffirms* its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

23. *Reiterates* that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development;

24. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including those contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, in the processes devoted to the definition of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Invites* the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the first one of which should be undertaken in 2013, in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

26. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund in support of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2013, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

2012/27. Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[144]

Acknowledging the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) towards attaining the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[145]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[146]

2. *Also takes note* of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, in which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);

3. *Notes* the ongoing review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

4. *Recognizes* the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, in terms of improving the lives of slum dwellers, but expresses concern that there has not been enough progress to counter the growth of slums in the developing world, that urban sprawl adds to the urban divide pushing social segregation in cities and suburbs, and that the overall reduction in the world's urban divide requires greater effort, since the absolute number of slum dwellers actually increased by over 50 million in ten years, and in this regard stresses the need for Governments and development partners to redouble efforts to support plans and strategies at all levels to improve the lives of the urban poor across the developing world;

5. *Encourages* Governments to continue to support the work and existing cooperation of UN-Habitat, within its mandate and in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013, on issues related to cities and climate change, including its complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, with a focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

6. *Also encourages* Governments, according to their circumstances and capacities, to promote sustainability criteria in planning, construction and management for access to clean water and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, urban and rural services, sustainable waste management, sustainable transport and disaster risk reduction;

7. *Encourages* governments at all levels and all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to promote the participation and access of people, in particular the poor, to policies, programmes and projects related to basic services, including housing, in order to address the needs of rural and urban populations;

8. *Welcomes* the contributions of initiatives at all levels to mobilize investment for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services beyond current targets, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

9. *Emphasizes* that, for Habitat III and its preparatory process, full advantage should be taken of planned meetings by aligning with the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and with the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, and encourages the regular regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings to support the activities of the preparatory process, taking into account that the conference and the preparatory process should be carried out in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner;

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[144] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[145] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[146] E/2012/65.

10. *Encourages* the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels in preparations for Habitat III;

11. *Recommends* that the General Assembly adopt in a timely manner a resolution on the modalities for Habitat III, and in this regard encourages the United Nations system, in particular the regional and functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, to actively support the preparatory process of the conference, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work on the strategic plan for 2014–2019 in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in an open and transparent manner, setting realistic and achievable goals for the period that it covers;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat on the review of the governance structure of the Programme,[147] and encourages UN-Habitat to move this process forward, in cooperation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in order to continue on its path towards the improvement of the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of its governance structure;

14. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to adequately support UN-Habitat in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly;

16. *Invites* Governments to further promote sustainable cities and the role of local authorities in their national development policies and programmes and to consider the environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically productive roles of cities in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

17. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-seventh session the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2013 a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

2012/28. Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eleventh session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/40 of 19 December 2002, 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, 2005/3 of 31 March 2005, 2005/55 of 21 October 2005, 2006/47 of 28 July 2006, 2007/38 of 4 October 2007, 2008/32 of 25 July 2008, 2009/18 of 29 July 2009, 2011/2 of 26 April 2011 and 2011/22 of 27 July 2011, all on public administration and development,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 56/213 of 21 December 2001, 57/277 of 20 December 2002, 58/231 of 23 December 2003, 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005, all on public administration and development, and resolutions 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010 and 66/184 of 22 December 2011, all on information and communications technologies for development,

Recognizing the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration in development,

[147] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1.

Noting the support being provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance to Member States on institutional and human resource capacity development, electronic and mobile government, and citizen engagement in managing development programmes,

Underscoring the centrality of transparent, accountable, inclusive, efficient, effective and equitable public administration in the process of development,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the conclusions and recommendations on local public governance and administration for results, contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eleventh session,[148] particularly the special emphasis on the role of citizen engagement, human capital development, including training and education of public servants, and fair allocation of resources in strengthening governance at all levels, particularly the local level;

2. *Reaffirms* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger,[149] and encourages Member States to continue to support capacity development in public governance and institution-building at all levels, with a view to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Invites* the Committee, within the framework of the preparations for its twelfth session, to study the effect of specific practices in responsive and inclusive public governance on development, bearing in mind the need to promote high standards of public sector integrity, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, at the national and local levels, promote equal access to public services and provide opportunities for all people to participate in the conduct of public affairs, and requests the Committee to convey the outcome of the study to the Economic and Social Council in the report on its twelfth session, in April 2013, with a view to assisting the process of preparing for deliberations on a post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(*a*) To increase the scope and depth of its online and offline capacity development training and to further develop its Public Administration Country Studies, which contain country statistical data and analytical and case studies, with the aim of better assisting countries in redefining, reforming, strengthening and innovating their public administrations in general, and public service delivery in particular, according to their needs;

(*b*) To give due recognition to innovative public sector initiatives of Member States through the promotion and strengthening of United Nations Public Service Day and the United Nations Public Service Awards;

(*c*) To support the development of the United Nations Public Administration Network for partnership-building, knowledge dissemination and the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in the area of public administration;

(*d*) To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[150] and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[151] on issues related to electronic and mobile government;

5. *Invites* Member States and other institutional donors to consider contributing to the relevant trust funds of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat for extending its capacity-building programmes and outreach activities, as appropriate.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

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[148] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 24* (E/2012/44).

[149] General Assembly resolution 65/1, para. 11; other clauses related to citizen engagement may be found in paras. 23 (*a*), (*e*) and (*g*) of the resolution.

[150] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

[151] See A/60/687.

2012/29. Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2010/37 of 14 December 2010,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 66/254 of 23 February 2012, by which the Assembly launched the intergovernmental process on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, and recognizing in this regard that a long-term solution to the problem of the backlog of reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[152] can be found in this context,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions[153] and the request contained therein for additional meeting time,

Concerned about the persistent backlog of reports of States parties awaiting consideration, which prevents the Committee from fully discharging its responsibilities under the Covenant and Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 in an efficient and timely manner,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, in particular its decision to consider, on a temporary basis, periodic reports over two meetings, with a view to increasing the number of reports of States parties considered by the Committee in order to reduce the current backlog, and encouraging sustained efforts by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods,

1. *Decides* to approve, as a temporary measure and without prejudice to the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the extension of the second annual session of 2013 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by one week and the first annual session of 2014 by one week, for a total of two extra weeks of meeting time, to be used for the consideration of reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[152] with a view to reducing the backlog in the consideration of those reports, and also decides to approve the participation of up to 10 members of the Committee in both pre-sessional working group meetings in 2013, in order to prepare for the consideration of extra reports;

2. *Requests* the Committee to continue to improve the efficiency of its working methods and to include in its reports to the Economic and Social Council information on the impact of the measures adopted by the Committee to address the backlog.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

2012/30. Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991, 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/265 of 30 June 2006 and 61/16 of 20 November 2006,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/285 of 29 June 2011 on the review of the implementation of Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further its resolution 2009/29 of 31 July 2009 and its decisions 2010/252 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/216 of 22 July 2011, entitled "Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated

[152] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[153] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 2* (E/2012/22).

implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16",

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the periodicity and scope of future reports on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;[154]

2. *Underscores* the need to implement General Assembly resolution 57/270 B as well as subsequent resolutions relevant to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

3. *Calls upon* the functional commissions, the regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, within their respective mandates, to provide coherent support to the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields;

4. *Recalls* the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, to strengthen the Council within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and the recognition of its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

5. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, within the framework of the review of the implementation of Assembly resolution 61/16, a report containing proposals for strengthening the Council, including its working methods, so that it can effectively fulfil its functions, and giving special attention to the integrated and coordinated implementation of, and the regular and substantive follow-up to, the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, to be prepared in consultation with Member States and taking into account the contributions of the functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Council, as appropriate.

49th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

2012/31. Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, and its outcome document,[155]

Recalling further the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 30 June 2009, and its outcome document,[156]

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, and its outcome document,[157]

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document,[158]

[154] A/67/82-E/2012/64.

[155] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[156] General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex.

[157] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[158] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 66/191 of 22 December 2011 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and resolution 65/146 of 20 December 2010 on innovative mechanisms of financing for development, Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/30 of 31 July 2009 on a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up and resolution 2011/38 of 28 July 2011 on the follow-up to the International Conference, and all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Council, as well as the 2008 Review Conference,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/285 of 29 June 2011 on the review of the implementation of Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Council,

Taking note of the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the fifth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in New York on 7 and 8 December 2011,[159]

Taking note also of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in New York on 12 and 13 March 2012,[160]

Taking note further of the note by the Secretary-General on coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for development,[161]

Reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[162] in its entirety, its integrity and its holistic approach, and recalling the resolve to take concrete action to implement the Monterrey Consensus and address the challenges of financing for development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming also that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Deeply concerned about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizing that, while global growth is returning, there is a need to sustain the recovery, which is fragile and uneven, and acknowledging that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of staying fully engaged, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[162] as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[163] and of continuing unremitting efforts to build bridges between all relevant stakeholders within the holistic agenda of the financing for development process;

2. *Reiterates* the role played by the United Nations as a focal point for the financing for development follow-up process and the need to maintain that role to ensure the continuity and dynamism of the process, while reaffirming the need to further intensify the engagement of all stakeholders, including the United Nations system, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, in the follow-up to and implementation of the commitments made at Monterrey and Doha;

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[159] A/66/678.

[160] A/67/81-E/2012/62.

[161] E/2012/7.

[162] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[163] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

3. *Also reiterates* that the Economic and Social Council should continue to strengthen its role in promoting coherence, coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration and as a forum for multi-stakeholder involvement;

4. *Recalls* paragraphs 255 to 257 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[158] and in this regard stresses the need to reinforce coherence and coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts with regard to the financing for development follow-up process;

5. *Emphasizes* that the financing for development follow-up process should constitute a continuum of events, each contributing to and feeding into the next, ensuring the holistic nature of the process and making better and more effective use of existing mechanisms and resources;

6. *Welcomes* the substantive discussions of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development of the General Assembly and the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and emphasizes that those discussions are an integral and mutually reinforcing part of the financing for development follow-up process;

7. *Stresses* the need to further improve the dialogue between Member States and representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development during the special high-level meeting of the Council, as part of a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue;

8. *Welcomes* the increased interaction and coordination at the staff level with the institutions involved prior to the special high-level meeting of the Council;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts of the President of the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with Member States, to continue to work with the appropriate representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to improve the agenda and the format of the special high-level meeting of the Council, considering innovative approaches that are conducive, inter alia, to the high-level participation of those institutions;

10. *Requests* the President of the Council, in close consultation with Member States, to continue close cooperation and dialogue with the relevant organizations and stakeholders on all the elements of the preparations for the special high-level meeting of the Council, in particular the date and agenda of the meeting of the following year, in order to seek a more interactive, dynamic and substantive discussion on key issues related to the financing for development framework;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken to give more prominence to the consideration of the agenda item on financing for development during the annual substantive session of the Council, including the allocation of the item to its coordination segment;

12. *Stresses* its resolve to continue improving those modalities in accordance with its resolutions 2009/30 and 2010/26 of 23 July 2010;

13. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to consider organizing seminars, panel discussions and briefings as part of the preparations for and contribution to the above-mentioned events in order to raise visibility, attract interest and participation and promote substantive discussions on a continuing basis;

14. *Notes* the ongoing discussions on innovative mechanisms of financing for development, including those of the special event held on 12 July 2012 during the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Council, while reiterating that such voluntary mechanisms should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of further improving cooperation between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, based on a clear understanding and respect for their respective mandates and governance structures;

16. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the invitation by the Bretton Woods institutions to the President of the Council to participate in the meeting of the Development Committee of the Bretton Woods institutions, and notes that the participation of the President of the Council in meetings of the intergovernmental bodies of the international organizations, as appropriate, can contribute to the financing for development follow-up process;

17. *Encourages* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, especially the Financing for Development Office, to maintain regular interaction at the staff level with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the interest of greater coherence, coordination and cooperation, each acting in accordance with its respective intergovernmental mandates;

18. *Acknowledges* the efforts undertaken to date to strengthen the financing for development follow-up process, and underscores the fact that the modalities of the process should be reviewed, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 65/145 of 20 December 2010;

19. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly to consider the need to hold a follow-up financing for development conference by 2013, and in this regard also recalls the decision of the Assembly to hold informal consultations with a view to taking a final decision on the need for such a conference by 2013, and looks forward to the successful conclusion of these consultations;

20. *Reiterates its appeal* to Member States and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, which would facilitate the implementation of a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up.

49th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

2012/32. Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011, pursuant to which the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category was established,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration[164] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[165]

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, 2009/35 of 31 July 2009 and 2011/20 of 27 July 2011,

Noting the work of the ad hoc working group,

Recalling its resolutions 2009/17 of 29 July 2009, 2010/34 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/44 of 5 December 2011 on the review of United Nations support for small island developing States,

Noting the importance of adequate financing to address the challenges created by the adverse impacts of climate change on extremely vulnerable countries graduating from the least developed country category,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its positive development disrupted or reversed, but that it should be able to continue and sustain its progress and development,

Recalling that, by its resolution 59/209, the General Assembly decided that graduation from the list of least developed countries becomes effective three years after the date on which the Assembly takes note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy and that, during the three-year period, the country remains on the list and maintains the advantages associated with membership on the list,

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[164] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[165] Ibid., chap. II.

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the list of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session;[166]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Committee on promoting productive capacity and employment in a globally responsible environment, in accordance with the theme of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2012, on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, on the triennial review in 2012 of the list of least developed countries and on strengthening the process of smooth transition from the least developed country category;

3. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that South Sudan be added to the list of least developed countries, subject to the concurrence of the Government of South Sudan, and invites the General Assembly to take note of this recommendation;

4. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Vanuatu be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and recommends that the General Assembly take note of this recommendation;

5. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee that Tuvalu be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and decides to consider this issue at its substantive session of 2013, allowing the Council an opportunity for full consideration of the particular challenges that Tuvalu faces;

6. *Recalls* its endorsement, made in 2009 and reiterated at subsequent sessions, of the recommendation of the Committee that Equatorial Guinea be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and urges the General Assembly to take note of that recommendation;

7. *Stresses* that inaction by the General Assembly with regard to the recommendations to graduate eligible countries is prejudicial to the credibility of the least developed country category, and in that regard urges the Assembly to take note of the action by the Council on the recommendation of the Committee related to inclusion in and graduation from the list of least developed countries at its first session following the decisions of the Council;

8. *Reaffirms* that smooth transition is vital to ensuring that graduating countries are eased onto a sustainable development path without any disruption, and emphasizes that a successful transition needs to be based, for each graduating country, on its own national strategy for a smooth transition, developed under national leadership with the support of the international community, as appropriate, presenting a comprehensive and coherent set of specific, predictable and transformative measures selected in accordance with the priorities of the country, while taking into account its own specific challenges, vulnerabilities and strengths;

9. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the contributions made by the Committee to the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category;

10. *Requests* the Committee, at its fifteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the theme chosen by the Council for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2013;

11. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the progress in the development of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council;

12. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the increased frequency of interaction between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair of the Committee for Development Policy and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20, within existing resources and as appropriate.

49th plenary meeting
27 July 2012

[166] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 13* (E/2012/33).